

## String Quartet No. 1: At Best It Sometimes Rhymes

### Performance Note on Movement II - Two Music Boxes (Tempo Libero):

In this movement only, two opposing time signatures and tempi are used simultaneously. The two tempi are completely independent of each other, with no specific discernible proportionality intended. Each pair of players should strive to maintain one consistent tempo that falls within the appropriate range (e.g., MM. = 84-92).

A thick rectangle around a measure (in the viola and cello parts) indicates that the pattern in this measure should be repeated as needed until the next cue is given.

A star above the violin 1 part (★) indicates that this player should give a visual cue to the pair playing in the opposing tempo (the viola and cello). Once a cue is given, this "opposing pair" should present one more complete cycle of their repeating pattern, then proceed to their next pattern. This ensures that the repeating patterns will not get too far ahead or behind and will complete the section at approximately the same time as the other pair.

As there is no intended metric relationship between the two tempi, the two pairs of players should never attempt to synchronize their downbeats, even when proceeding to a new pattern. The cue is merely a signal that it is time to proceed to the next pattern.

Using this method, the melodic material should be perceived as rhythmically independent of the supporting material, while the supporting harmonies will still change at the appropriate times.

# String Quartet No. 1

## II. Two Music Boxes (Tempo Libero)

Kyle Gullings

Andante ♩ ≈ 84-92\* (♩ = ♩ sempre)

(senza sord.)

Vln. 1 *f*

Vln. 2 *con sord.* Andante ♩ ≈ 84-92\* (♩ = ♩ sempre) (an echo) *p*

Vla. Adagio ♩ ≈ 66-76\* *con sord. sostenuto* *p* Repeat as needed. (♩ = ♩ sempre)

Vlc. Adagio ♩ ≈ 66-76\* *con sord. sostenuto* *p* (♩ = ♩ sempre)

5

Vln. 1 ★

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

(\*See separate performance note on tempo.)

8

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

*pp*

11

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

*p* 3

*allarg.*

★

14 *a tempo*

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

17 ★ *dim.*

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

20

5

3

3

*mp cresc.*

3

*pp cresc.*

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

23

3

3

*f*

3

3

*mf*

★

26

Vln. 1

sul tasto  
susurrando

sub. *p*

3

3

5

poco a poco cresc.

★

Vln. 2

sul tasto  
susurrando

sub. *p*

3

3

5

poco a poco cresc.

Vla.

sul tasto  
susurrando

sub. *ppp*

poco a poco cresc.

Vlc.

sul tasto  
susurrando

sub. *ppp*

poco a poco cresc.

29

Vln. 1

5

7

★

normale

Vln. 2

5

7

normale

Vla.

Vlc.

Hold until all players have played the final note for a few beats, then cut off together.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

*mp*

*p*

*p*

Hold until all players have played the final note for a few beats, then cut off together.