



We are small and wee and we eat the house down
for trombone and string quartet

Carolyn Chen
2011

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for Will Lang

Performance notes

Trills to the next diatonic step up.
Vibrato ad lib.

-- m.v. gradually molto vibrato
x trombone tongue slap
◆ sing

Program note

In a recent survey, three out of three people told me gesture is over. But perhaps it isn't *over* so much as *embarrassing* – which would make it the way forward, embarrassment being the royal road. How to recuperate the gesture? Schubert's "Death and the Maiden" might be a house. Termites feed mostly on dead plant material. They build with what they chew. This is reconstruction.

Carolyn Chen
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we are small ♩ = 120

Violin I: pizz., arco *tr* pizz.
Violin II: *p* pizz., *f*
Viola: *p* pizz., *f*, arco *tr* pizz.
Violoncello: *p*, *f*
Trombone: *p*, *f*, *sfz*, tongue slap

10

Vln. I: arco *tr* pizz., arco *tr* pizz.
Vln. II: *p*, *f*, *p*
Vla.: arco *tr*, pizz., *p*, *f*
Vc.: *p*, *f*, *tr*
Tbn.: *p*, *f*

21

A

Vln. I: arco sul pont., col legno 3, arco ord. *tr*, *tr*, *tr*
Vln. II: *p*, arco sul pont., col legno, pizz., *p*
Vla.: arco sul pont., col legno, ric., *p*
Vc.: arco sul pont., col legno, *ppp*, 3, *f*, *p*
Tbn.: *sfz*, *sfz*, *sfz*, *p*

34 **B** *largo* ♩ = 50

Vln. I *tr*

Vln. II *mf* arco

Vla. arco *mf* arco

Vc. arco pizz. *mf* arco

Tbn. plunger -1/2 open *mf*

45 **C** ♩ = 120 or Tbn.

Vln. I *mp* *tr* *p*

Vln. II *col legno* *f* *p* *mp* *pizz.* *pizz.* *p* arco *tr*

Vla. *mp* *pizz.* *p*

Vc. *mp* *pizz.* *p*

Tbn. --open, growl intensify *mp* *f* *p* *sfz* *sfz* *mp* *sing, flz.* *sing*

56 **D** we eat (not large)

Vln. I *f* *tr* *p* *mf* *p* *f* *mp*

Vln. II *f* *tr* *p* *mf* *p* *f* *mp*

Vla. *f* *p* arco *mf* *p* *f* *pizz.* *mp*

Vc. *f* *p* arco *mf* *p* *f* *mp*

Tbn. *mp* *mf* *p* *f* *mp* *sing, flz.*

67

Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Tbn.

tr

78

Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Tbn.

O sing

p f p

tr

89

Vln. II

101

Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Tbn.

E

pp

115

Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Tbn.

arco pizz.

tender *pp* *f*

arco pizz.

mp *f*

pizz. *p*

tender *pp* *f*

arco pizz.

mp *p*

tender *pp* *f*

--m.v.

mp

F $\text{♩} = 60$ arco -- sul pont. $\text{♩} = 120$ interior design pizz. col legno tratto

Vln. I *f* arco -- sul pont. *mp* *pp*³ *mp* *pp* *pp* *mp* pizz.

Vln. II *f* arco -- sul pont. *pp* col legno pizz. *pp*³ *mp* *pp*³ *mp*

Vla. *f* arco -- sul pont. *pp* col legno *mp* pizz. col legno tratto

Vc. *pp* *f* *pp*³ *mp* *pp* *mp* *pp*

Tbn. *f* *mp* *pp* *mp*

G $\text{♩} = 92$ $\text{♩} = 112$ frills pizz.

Vln. I arco *p* *pp* *pp* *p* *f* *ff* *p* pizz.

Vln. II arco *p* *pp* *pp* *p* *pp* *f* *ff* *p* pizz.

Vla. arco *pp* *pp* *p* *pp* *mp* *p* *mp*

Vc. ord. *p* *pp* *p* *pp* *f* *ff* *tr* *tr*

Tbn. *p* *pp* *pp* *p* *f* *f* *p*

H $\text{♩} = 120$ exteriors col legno pizz. col legno ord.

Vln. I *mp* *pp* arco

Vln. II *mp* *pp* arco

Vla. pizz. *p* col legno *mp* *pp* ord.

Vc. pizz. *p* col legno *mp* *pp* ord.

Tbn. *p* *f* *pp* *mp*

162 **I** $\text{♩} = 112 \text{ skips}$
 Vln. I col legno *pp* spiccato 3 3 3 pizz
 Vln. II col legno arco *pp* pizz
 Vla. pizz. arco *pp* pizz
 Vc. pizz. *p*
 Tbn. *p* 3 tr~

172 sautillé
 Vln. I *f*
 Vln. II arco *pp* pizz. strum *f* *pp*
 Vla. arco *p* *mp* -- m.v. -- ord. *p* *pp* strum *f*
 Vc. *ppp* *f*
 Tbn. tr~ *pp*

181 **J** swallows arco ca. 6"
 Vln. I pizz. *p* *f* *p* arco
 Vln. II arco tr~ *p* tr~ tr~ tr~ tr~ tr~ *mp* *p* *mf*
 Vla. pizz. *p* *f* *p* arco tr~ tr~ tr~ tr~ tr~ *mp* *p*
 Vc. *p* *f* *p* *mp* *p* *mf*
 Tbn. *p* tr~ tr~ tr~ tr~ tr~ tr~ tr~ tr~ tr~ *mp* *p* *mf*

191 **K** ♩ = 60 ♩ = 120 ♩ = 30 ♩ = 33 ♩ = 20

Vln. I pizz. arco *mf* *p* *mf* *mp* *mf*

Vln. II pizz. *f* arco *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *mp* *mf*

Vla. pizz. *f* arco *mf* *p* *mf* *mp* *mf*

Vc. *f* *mf* *p* *mf* *mp* *mf*

Tbn. *f* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *mp* *mf*

202 ♩ = 120 **L** ♩ = 50 increasingly beautiful ♩ = 30 ♩ = 20 ♩ = 10 ♩ = 30

Vln. I *pp* *mp* *mf* *mp* *f* *f* very, very beautiful

Vln. II *pp* *mp* *mf* *mp* *f* *f* very, very beautiful

Vla. *mp* *mf* *mp* *f* *f* very, very beautiful

Vc. *mp* *mf* *mp* *f* *f* very, very beautiful

Tbn. *mp* *mf* *mp* *f* *f* very, very beautiful

c.a. 10''
-- m.v.
(shaking accel., widen)

♩ = 112 drift in **M** arco *mp* *p* *mp* *mp* *f* *f*

-- ord. -- m.v. -- ord. **N** ♩ = 120 the end

Vln. I pizz. arco *mp* *p* *mp* *mp* *f* pizz. *f*

Vln. II pizz. *mf* arco *mp* *p* *mp* *mp* *f* pizz. *f*

Vla. pizz. *mf* *p* *mp* *mp* *f*

Vc. pizz. *mf* *p* *mp* *mp* *f*

Tbn. *mf* *f*

227 **the end the end**

Vln. I *mp* *f* *mp* *mf*

Vln. II *mp* *f* *mp* *mf*

Vla. *mp* *f* *mp* *mf*

Vc. *mp* *mp* *mf*

Tbn. *f*

238

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Tbn. *cadentially enthusiastic*

247

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla. *arco* *ppp*

Vc.

Tbn.

$\text{♩} = 112$ drift out

252 *arco* **O**

Vln. I *p* *arco*

Vln. II *p* *arco*

Vla. *p* *arco* *pizz.* *mp*

Vc. *pp* *pizz.* *mp*

Tbn. *mp*