

String Walkers

Commissioned by SNU Haegeum Ensemble
2021

For Haegeum and Tenor Haegeum
Soo Yeon Lyuh

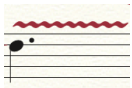
Program Note

Dedicated to a cellist colleague of mine (Joan Jeanrenaud), this piece is my attempt to recreate and flourish materials developed during our free improvisation sessions. Here we consider ourselves “string walkers,” playing string instruments together while imagining ourselves walking along a rope. In both senses of the word, the piece is about how two instrumentalists walking on a string are balancing each other out through careful juxtaposition and integration of different sections. Each section has been cherry-picked from a series of free improvisations we did back in 2017. Reverse-engineering parts from casually improvised music allowed me to compose a guideline piece that includes impromptu inserts for a variety of performers who wish to learn how to improvise. The duration of each improvisation section is subject to change according to the performer’s comfort level. In this process, extended techniques can be introduced, while leaving open the possibility of making adjustments on the non-improvisational parts with joy.

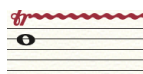
Performance Note



- c (symbol): Slide very quickly upwards from below the target note, typically through one half step.

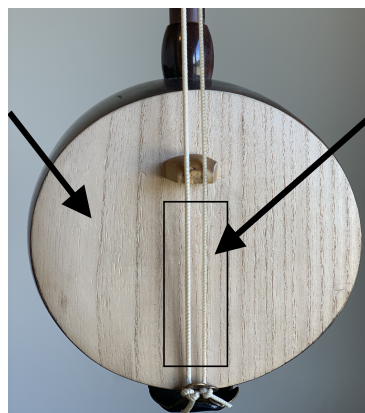


- Wide vibrato



- tr (symbol): Trill

- Tap the soundbox



- Behind bridge (pizz)

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A ♩ = 56 *rubato*

The musical score for 'The Swan' by Camille Saint-Saëns is presented in two systems. The first system includes dynamic markings *sfzp*, *f*, *ff*, and *mp*, along with a decrescendo hairpin. The second system includes *p*, *fp*, and *sfp*, along with a crescendo hairpin. The score features various musical notations such as eighth notes, quarter notes, half notes, and a triplet of eighth notes. A fermata is placed over a half note in the first system, and a triplet of eighth notes is marked with a '3' in the second system.

7

sfp

mp

f

8

mf

mp

The musical score for 'The Rose Tree' is presented in two systems. The first system contains measures 1 through 4, and the second system contains measures 5 through 8. The music is written for a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment (treble and bass clefs). The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 3/4. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, beams, and slurs. Dynamics markings include *mf* (mezzo-forte) and *f* (forte). The piano part features a triplet in measure 5 and a crescendo leading into measure 6. The vocal line has a melodic line with a slur over measures 1-4 and a crescendo leading into measure 5.

B ♩ = 65

13

p

fff

mf ³

p

mf

sfz *f* ³

rit.

pizz. behind bridge

pizz. behind bridge

8

p

ff

16 *rit.*

mp *p* *mf* *sfz*

19 *accel.*

f *fff* *mf* *f* *mp*

23 *arco*

f *ff* *p sfzp* *col legno* *mf* *p sfz* *p*

tap the sound box

27 *col legno*

mp *f*

Continue improvising based on the previously laid out elements;
(e.g. spiccato col legno, circular bowing, rubbing wood on string)

Duration 1 min. or as agreed with partner

End with open string sul pont. multiphonic long tones

C

$\text{♩} = 56$

arco

mp *mf* *p* *mp* *mf* *p*

33

f *p* *f* *p* *f*

p *f* *p* *f* *p*

37

p *f* *mf* *p*

f *p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f*

41

p *f*

p

Take turns to improvise while supporting the counterpart
Duration 1 min. or as agreed with partner

44

ppp

ppp

C' ♩ = 56

48

p *f* *p* *f*

p *f* *p* *f*

B' ♩ = 65

pizz. behind bridge

52

ff *mf* *p* *mf* *sfz* *f* *mp* *ff* *mp*

col legno

rit.

B + C

55

p *mf* *sfz* *fff* *p* *mp* *mf*

arco

rit.

58

sub. p *f* *p* *sfz* *mp* *p* *mf*

spiccato col legno

D ♩ = 50

61

arco *mp* *mf* *p* *mp* *mf*

65

f *mf* *pp* *p* *mp* *mf*

69

mf *p* *f* *p*

mp *f* *p*

73

sfzp *f* *p* *sfz* *sfzp* *sfz* *mf*

77

mf *ff* *3* *sub. p* *sfzp* *mp* *p*

Gliss. up and down through any series of pitches

81

pp *sfzp* *mf* *p*

85

mf *p* *p* *o*