

CONCERTO FOR STRING ORCHESTRA
ERIC SHANFIELD

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ENS.2025.13 | 10.23.25—10.29.25 | 16'

String Orchestra

>Depending on the richness of timbre sought, the following string complements are recommended:

6.5.4.3.2 or 8.8.6.6.4; 12.10.8.6.4 and 16.14.12.10.8 are possible, but not larger. Unlike my mandolin and harpsichord concerti, single instruments or desks should not be utilized.

>Though not strictly necessary, the composer generally prefers first and second violins to sit antiphonally.

>Though this work was conceived for modern instruments, early instruments are also an attractive option.

CONCERTO FOR STRING ORCHESTRA

A companion of sorts to my *Mandolin Concerto* and *Harpsichord Concerto*, this *Concerto for String Orchestra* completes a loose trilogy which, like its predecessors, has no extramusical component; it is absolute music, so far as that is possible. Though principally inspired by John Wilson and the Sinfonia of London's magnificent recordings of string orchestra repertoire, especially Bliss's *Music for Strings*, Korngold's *Symphonic Serenade*, and Howells's *Concerto for String Orchestra*, I have shamelessly borrowed my movement titles from Stravinsky's *Concerto in D*, the greatest work for strings of them all.

CONCERTO FOR STRING ORCHESTRA

I. VIVACE

Eric Shanfield

$\text{♩} = 96$

pizz. arco pizz. arco pizz.

Violin I *f* *f* *p* *f* *f* *p* *f*

Violin II *f* *p* *f* *mf* *p* *p* *f*

Viola *f* *p* *f* *p* *f*

Violoncello pizz. arco *f* *f* *mp* *f* *p* *f*

Contrabass *f* *f*

①

Vln. I *f* *f* *p* *p*

Vln. II *f* *p* *p* *f* *f* *pizz.*

Vla. *f* *p* *p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f*

Vc. *f* *p* *f* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f*

Cb. *f* *p* *f* *f* *p* *f* *pizz.* *f* *p* *f*

②

Vln. I *f* *f* *p*

Vln. II *f* *p* *fp* *f* *p* *f*

Vla. *f* *p* *fp* *f* *p* *f*

Vc. *p* *f* *pizz.* *arco* *p* *f* *p*

Cb. *p* *f* *pizz.* *arco* *p* *f*

First system of musical notation for the Concerto for String Orchestra - I. Vivace. The system includes staves for Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Contrabass (Cb.). The music is in 4/4 time and features various dynamics (f, p) and articulations (pizz., arco, div., unis.). A section marked ③ arco begins in the third measure.

Second system of musical notation. It continues the string orchestra parts. Dynamics range from fortissimo (f) to pianissimo (p). Articulations include pizzicato (pizz.), arco, and pizzicato arco (pizz. arco). A section marked ④ (pizz.) begins in the third measure.

Third system of musical notation. It continues the string orchestra parts. Dynamics range from fortissimo (f) to pianissimo (p). Articulations include pizzicato (pizz.), arco, and pizzicato arco (pizz. arco). A section marked ⑤ pizz. begins in the third measure.

The image shows a musical score for measures 10-12 of 'The Swan' from 'The Nutcracker'. The score is for five instruments: Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Contrabass (Cb.).

- Measure 10:** Vln. I has a whole note G4. Vln. II has a half note G4. Vla. has a half note G2. Vc. has a half note G2. Cb. has a half note G2.
- Measure 11:** Vln. I has a whole note G4. Vln. II has a half note G4. Vla. has a half note G2. Vc. has a half note G2. Cb. has a half note G2.
- Measure 12:** Vln. I has a whole note G4. Vln. II has a half note G4. Vla. has a half note G2. Vc. has a half note G2. Cb. has a half note G2.

The score includes various musical notations such as dynamics (p, f), articulation (pizz., arco), and phrasing slurs. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4.

[illegible]

Violin I (Vln. I) starts with a forte (f) melody in 3/4 time, transitioning to 4/4 time. It features a triplet of eighth notes (f) and a long phrase (p). Violin II (Vln. II) starts with a forte (f) melody in 3/4 time, transitioning to 4/4 time. It features a triplet of eighth notes (f) and a long phrase (p). Viola (Vla.) starts with a forte (f) melody in 3/4 time, transitioning to 4/4 time. It features a triplet of eighth notes (f) and a long phrase (p). Violoncello (Vc.) starts with a forte (f) melody in 3/4 time, transitioning to 4/4 time. It features a triplet of eighth notes (f) and a long phrase (p). Contrabasso (Cb.) starts with a forte (f) melody in 3/4 time, transitioning to 4/4 time. It features a triplet of eighth notes (f) and a long phrase (p).

[illegible]

This musical score page contains five staves for string instruments. The top staff is Violin I (Vln. I), followed by Violin II (Vln. II), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Contrabass (Cb.). The music is written in 4/4 time. A rehearsal mark '11' is placed above the first measure of the second system. Dynamics include piano (*p*) and fortissimo (*f*). Performance markings such as *unis.*, *arco*, and *pizz.* are present. The score shows complex rhythmic patterns, including sixteenth-note runs and triplets, with crescendo and decrescendo hairpins indicating dynamic changes.

Violins I and II, Viola, Violoncello, and Contrabasso. The score is in 4/4 time and features a key signature of one sharp (F#). The music is divided into three measures. The first measure is in 4/4 time, the second in 2/4 time, and the third in 4/4 time. The Violins I and II parts start with a rest in the first measure, followed by a triplet of eighth notes in the second measure, and then a series of eighth notes in the third measure. The Viola part starts with a rest in the first measure, followed by a triplet of eighth notes in the second measure, and then a series of eighth notes in the third measure. The Violoncello and Contrabasso parts start with a rest in the first measure, followed by a triplet of eighth notes in the second measure, and then a series of eighth notes in the third measure. The score includes dynamic markings such as p (piano), f (forte), and pizz. (pizzicato).

[illegible]

First system of the musical score, measures 1-13. The score is for a string orchestra with five staves: Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Contrabass (Cb.). The key signature has one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. Measure 13 is marked with a circled '13'. Dynamics include *p* (piano) and *f* (forte). Performance markings include *div.* (divisi) and *unis.* (unison).

Second system of the musical score, measures 14-16. Measure 14 is marked with a circled '14'. Dynamics include *p* (piano), *f* (forte), and *div. a3* (divisi a triplet). Performance markings include *div.* (divisi) and *unis.* (unison).

Third system of the musical score, measures 17-19. Measure 17 is marked with a circled '15' (likely a typo for 17). Dynamics include *f* (forte), *p* (piano), and *div. a3* (divisi a triplet). Performance markings include *div.* (divisi), *unis.* (unison), and *pizz.* (pizzicato).

arco *8va*

16

Vln. I *f* *p*

Vln. II *f* *p* *f* *mp* *p*

Vla. *f* *p* *f* *f* *p*

Vc. *pizz.* *f* *arco* *p* *f* *pizz.* *0* *arco* *p* *f* *f*

Cb. *f* *p* *f* *p* *f* *unis. pizz.* *arco* *pizz.* *p* *f*

Vln. I *pizz.* *f* *arco* *mf* *f* *pizz.* *f* *arco* *f* *3*

Vln. II *f* *p* *f* *f*

Vla. *f* *p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f*

Vc. *p* *p* *f* *pizz.* *f* *arco* *f*

Cb. *f* *f* *arco*

div.

18

Vln. I *f* *3* *unis.* *f*

Vln. II *p* *f* *f* *div.* *f* *p* *f*

Vla. *p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f* *f*

Vc. *p* *f* *f* *f* *p*

Cb. *pizz.* *arco*

19 unis.

Vln. I *p* *f* *f* *p* *f*

Vln. II *p* *p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f* *p*

Vla. *p* *p* *f* *f* *p* *f*

Vc. *p* *f* *p* *f* *pizz.* *f* *p* *arco* *p* *f*

Cb. *p* *f* *pizz.* *f* *arco* *f* *p* *f* *pizz.*

20 pizz. arco

Vln. I *f* *p* *f* *f* *p*

Vln. II *f* *p* *f* *p*

Vla. *f* *p* *f* *p*

Vc. *pizz.* *f* *p* *f* *arco* *fp*

Cb. *f* *p* *f* *pizz.* *f*

pizz. arco pizz.

Vln. I *f* *f* *p* *f* *p*

Vln. II *f* *mf* *p* *p* *f* *f* *p*

Vla. *f* *p* *f* *f* *p*

Vc. *f* *f* *mp* *f* *p* *f* *pizz.* *f* *arco* *f* *p*

Cb. *f* *f* *arco* *f* *pizz.* *f* *p*

II. ARIOSO

♩ = 66
N.B.

N.B.: only Vln. II con sord.

[illegible]

③

Vln. I: *mf* *unis.* *3* *p* *mf* *p*

Vln. II: *mf* *senza sord. unis.* *8va 2nd x* *p*

Vla.: *mf* *3* *div.* *unis.* *3* *div.* *unis.* *3* *div.* *unis.* *3* *div.* *mf* *p*

Vc.: *mf* *unis. (non div.)* *p* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *p* *mf* *p*

Cb.: *mf* *arco 2nd x* *p*

④

Vln. I: *f* *unis.* *f* *div.* *3* *f*

Vln. II: *f* *p* *f* *p* *f*

Vla.: *f* *unis.* *div.* *3* *f* *unis.* *f*

Vc.: *f* *p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f* *p*

Cb.: *f* *p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f* *p*

⑤

Vln. I: *f* *unis.* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

Vln. II: *p* *f* *p* *mf* *div.* *p* *mf* *p*

Vla.: *mf* *3* *p*

Vc.: *f* *p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *mf* *3* *p*

Cb.: *f* *p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *mf*

Score for Violins I and II, Viola, Violoncello, and Contrabasso. The music is in 2/4 time and features dynamic markings such as *mf*, *p*, and *mf*. The Violin I part includes a triplet marked *unis.* and the Violoncello part includes a triplet marked *div.*

⑥

Score for Violins I and II, Viola, Violoncello, and Contrabasso. The music is in 2/4 time and features dynamic markings such as *mf*, *p*, and *mf*. The Viola part includes a first ending marked *1st x only*. The Violoncello part includes a triplet marked *unis.* and the Contrabasso part includes a triplet marked *pizz.* and *arco*.

8va 2nd x

Score for Violins I and II, Viola, Violoncello, and Contrabasso. The music is in 2/4 time and features dynamic markings such as *f*, *p*, and *f*. The Violin I part includes a triplet marked *8va 2nd x*. The Violoncello part includes a triplet marked *pizz.* and the Contrabasso part includes a triplet marked *pizz.* and *arco*.

[illegible]

Violin I

Violin II

Viola

Violoncello

Contrabass

Musical score for measures 13-17. The score includes staves for Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Contrabass (Cb.).

- Vln. I:** Measures 13-17 show melodic lines with dynamics *p*, *mf*, and *p*. Measure 16 has an "arco" marking.
- Vln. II:** Measures 13-17 feature arpeggiated figures with dynamics *p* and *mf*. Measure 16 has an "arco div." marking.
- Vla.:** Measures 13-17 are mostly rests, with a melodic phrase starting in measure 16.
- Vc.:** Measures 13-17 feature rhythmic patterns with dynamics *mf*, *p*, and *mf*. Measure 16 has an "arco" marking.
- Cb.:** Measures 13-17 feature bass lines with dynamics *mf* and *p*. Measure 16 has a "pizz." marking.

III. RONDO

♩ = 116

[illegible]

③

Vln. I *f* *p* *f* *p*

Vln. II *f* *p* *f* *p*

Vla. *f* *p* *f* *p*

Vc. *div. arco* *f* *p* *unis.* *f* *p*

Cb. *(pizz.)* *f* *p* *arco* *f* *p*

④

Vln. I *f* *p*

Vln. II *f* *p*

Vla. *f* *p*

Vc. *div.* *f* *p*

Cb. *pizz.* *f* *p*

⑤ *Meno mosso* (♩ = 104)

Vln. I *f* *p* *p* *f* *p*

Vln. II *f* *p* *f* *p*

Vla. *unis.* *p* *f* *p*

Vc. *unis.* *p* *f* *p*

Cb. *arco* *f* *p* *p* *f* *p*

div. a3 flaut. *p* *f* *p* *f*

flaut. non vib. *p* *f* *p* *f*

flaut. *p* *f* *p* *f*

⑥

Vln. I *p* *f* *p* *f*

Vln. II *p* *f* *p* *f*

Vla. *f* *p* *f* *p* *f*

Vc. *f* *p* *f* *p* *f*

Cb. *pizz.* *p* *f* *mf*

div. *p* *f*

⑦ *a tempo* (♩ = 120)

Vln. I *mf*

Vln. II *mf* *p* *mf*

Vla. *mf* *p* *mf*

Vc. *mf* *p* *mf*

Cb. *mf*

unis. *mf*

pizz. *mf*

arco *p* *mf*

8⁹

Vln. I *f* *p* *f* *p* *p* *f* *p*

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

Vla. *mf* *p* *mf* *f* *p* *f*

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

Cb. *arco 2nd x* *f* *p*

0 9

Vln. I *f* *p* *f* *p* *p* *f* *p* *pizz.* *f* *p* *f*

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

Vla. *f* *p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f*

Vc. *f* *p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f*

Cb. *f* *p* *p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f* *p*

rall. 10 **Meno mosso** (♩ = 104)

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

Vln. II *p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f* *flaut.* *mp*

Vla. *p* *p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f* *flaut.* *mp*

Vc. *p* *p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f* *flaut.* *mp*

Cb. *p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f* *arco* *mp*

11 12 a tempo (♩ = 120)

Vln. I *p* *fp* *mf* *mf* *mf*

Vln. II *p* *fp* *mf*

Vla. *p* *norm.* *fp* *div.* *mf*

Vc. *p* *norm.* *fp* *mf* *div.* *p* *mf* *unis.*

Cb. *p* *fp* *mf*

13

Vln. I *unis.* *mf* *p* *mf* *div.* *p* *mf* *p*

Vln. II *mf* *unis.* *p* *mf*

Vla. *pizz.* *mf* *arco* *p* *mf* *pizz.*

Vc. *p* *mf* *mf* *p*

Cb. *mf* *p* *mf*

14

Vln. I *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

Vln. II *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

Vla. *arco* *p* *pizz.* *mf* *arco* *p* *pizz.* *mf* *arco* *p*

Vc. *mf* *p*

Cb. *p* *mf*

15

rall.

Vln. I *mf* *p* *mf* *mf* *p*

Vln. II *mf* *p* *p* *mf* *p*

Vla. pizz. *mf* *p* *arco* *pizz.* *mf* *p*

Vc. pizz. *mf* *arco* *pizz.* *arco*

Cb. *p* *mf* *p* *mf*

16 *Meno mosso* (♩ = 104)

17 *a tempo* (♩ = 120)

8va 2nd x

Vln. I *mf*

Vln. II *div. flaut.* *p* *mp* *unis. norm.* *p* *mf*

Vla. *div. arco flaut.* *p* *mp* *unis. norm.* *p* *mf*

Vc. *flaut.* *p* *mp* *Play 2nd x only* *mf* *mf* *p*

Cb. *flaut.* *p* *mp* *Play 2nd x only* *mf* *mf* *p*

18

8va 2nd x

Vln. I *mf* *p*

Vln. II *p* *mf* *p*

Vla. *p* *mf* *p*

Vc. *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

Cb. *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

19 *Play 2nd x only*

Vln. I *f* *p* *p* *f* *f* *p* *f*

Vln. II *Play 2nd x only* *div.* *f* *unis. on the string* *0* *f* *p* *0* *f*

Vla. *Play 2nd x only* *p* *f* *p* *f* *on the string* *0* *f* *p* *p*

Vc. *f* *p* *f* *f* *f*

Cb. *f* *pizz.* *p* *f* *arco* *f*

21

Vln. I *p* *p* *f* *p* *f*

Vln. II *f* *p* *f* *f* *p* *unis.* *p*

Vla. *f* *p* *f* *on the string* *f* *p* *on the string* *p*

Vc. *p* *f* *on the string* *p*

Cb. *pizz.* *p* *f* *arco on the string* *p*

Vln. I *p* *f* *p* *f* *p*

Vln. II *3* *div.* *unis.* *p* *div.* *unis.* *p*

Vla. *f* *p* *f* *p*

Vc. *f* *p* *f* *p*

Cb. *pizz.* *8va if no ext.* *arco* *f* *pizz.* *arco* *p*

Meno mosso (♩ = 104)

a tempo (♩ = 120)

[illegible][illegible]

Musical score for measures 26-29 of "The Great Gate of Kiev" from Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 2. The score is for a string quartet (Violin I, Violin II, Viola, and Violoncello/Double Bass). The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The score is divided into four measures. Measure 26 begins with a double bar line and a repeat sign. The first two measures (26 and 27) are marked with a forte (*f*) dynamic and a "div." (divisi) instruction. The last two measures (28 and 29) are marked with a piano (*p*) dynamic and a "sim." (simile) instruction. The Violin I part features a melodic line with a crescendo and decrescendo. The Violin II part features a melodic line with a crescendo and decrescendo. The Viola part features a melodic line with a crescendo and decrescendo. The Violoncello/Double Bass part features a melodic line with a crescendo and decrescendo.

27 *unis.*
p

28 *8va 2nd x*
f *3*

Vln. I

Vln. II *div.* *sim.* *unis.*
p

Vla. *div.* *sim.* *unis.*
p

Vc. *unis.*
p

Cb. *p*

f *p* *f* *p*

29 *Meno mosso* ($\text{♩} = 104$)

30

31 *a tempo* ($\text{♩} = 120$)

Vln. I *p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f*

Vln. II *p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f*

Vla. *p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f*

Vc. *p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f*

Cb. *p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f*

3 *3* *3* *3* *3* *3* *3* *3*

pizz. *arco* *pizz.* *arco*

32

Vln. I *unis.* *div.* *f* *p* *f*

Vln. II *p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f*

Vla. *f* *p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f* *p*

Vc. *p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f*

Cb. *pizz.* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f*

ff *ff* *ff* *ff* *ff* *ff* *ff* *ff*

unis. pizz. *pizz.* *arco (non div.)*