for the Goldberg Ensemble

# BREAKING STRINGS

for 11 solo strings

full score

Peter McAleer

2002

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## About

*Breaking Strings* was commissioned by the Goldberg Ensemble through the SPNM (now Sound and Music). It was first performed by the group under the directorship of Malcolm Layfield at the Goldberg Contemporary Music Festival, Leeds 2003.

The music explores the concept of fracture: from flowing melodies ruptured and redistributed in tiny motifs across the instruments - hocket - to misalignment and the blurring of musical line. Many ways of splitting and splintering musical fabric can be seen in this score but the enigmatic title hints at perhaps more than just that:

*When to her lute Corinna sings,*
*Her voice revives the leaden strings,*
*And both in highest notes appear,*
*As any challeng'd echo clear.*
*But when she doth of mourning speak,*
*Ev'n with her sighs the strings do break.*

- Thomas Campion, *A Book of Airs*

## Performance Note

Harmonics are written giving the pitch to be produced. I have not been presumptuous enough to instruct the players how to achieve them.
Where the double bass strays into the treble clef the custom of octave transposition is retained.

## Forces

6 violins, 2 violas, 2 cellos, 1 double bass

## Duration

10 minutes

Peter McAleer October 2002

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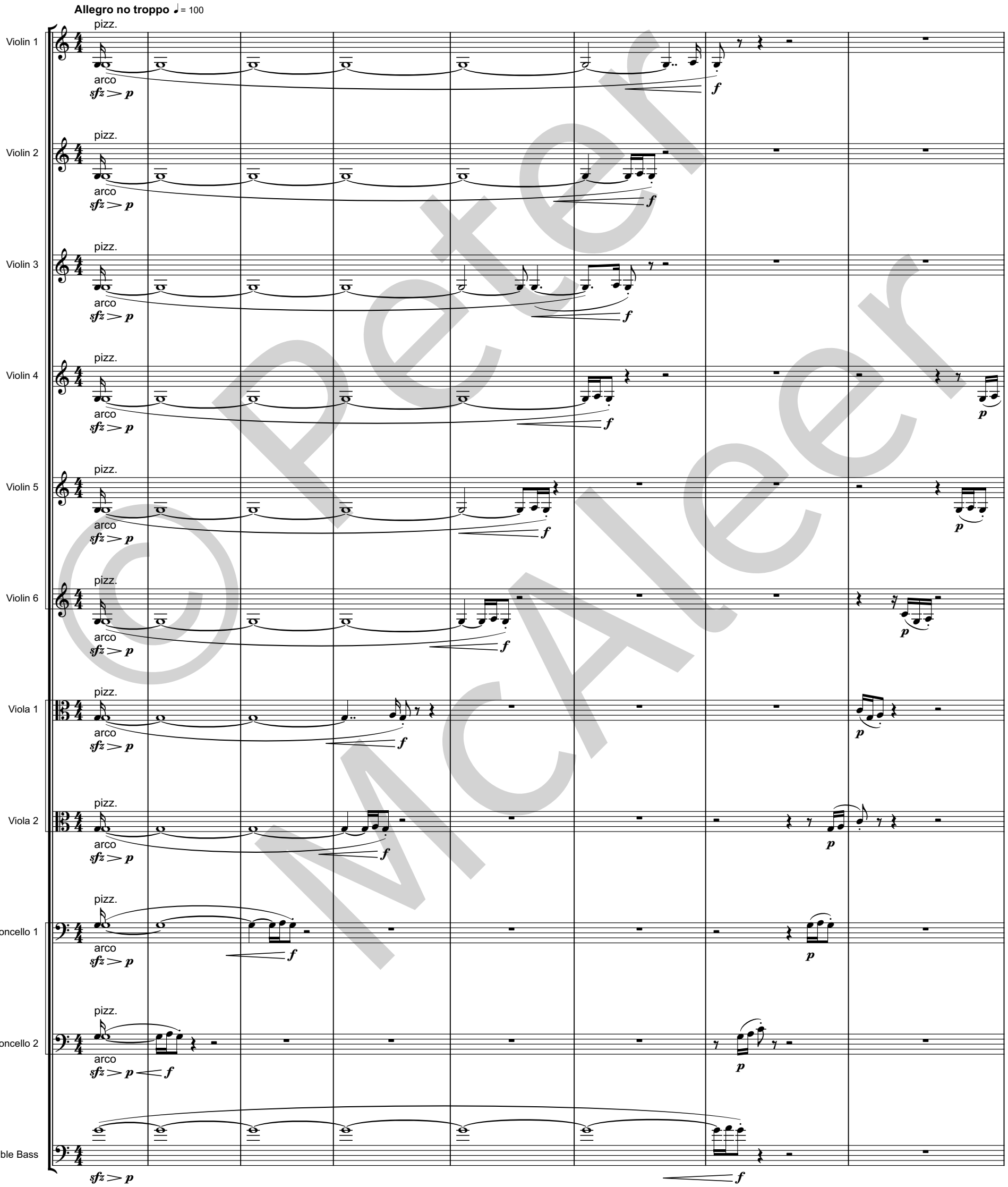
for 11 solo strings

**PETER McALEER**

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9

Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vln. 3
Vln. 4
Vln. 5
Vln. 6
Vla 1
Vla 2
Vc. 1
Vc. 2
D. B.

A

14

Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vln. 3
Vln. 4
Vln. 5
Vln. 6
Vla 1
Vla 2
Vc. 1
Vc. 2
D. B.

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19

Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vln. 3
Vln. 4
Vln. 5
Vln. 6
Vla 1
Vla 2
Vc. 1
Vc. 2
D. B.

B

24

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29

Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vln. 3
Vln. 4
Vln. 5
Vln. 6
Vla 1
Vla 2
Vc. 1
Vc. 2
D. B.

34

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39 C

Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vln. 3
Vln. 4
Vln. 5
Vln. 6
Vla 1
Vla 2
Vc. 1
Vc. 2
D. B.

45

legato
non legato
non legato
non legato

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51

Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vln. 3
Vln. 4
Vln. 5
Vln. 6
Vla 1
Vla 2
Vc. 1
Vc. 2
D. B.

59

**D** **Poco Meno Mosso** ♩= 90

legato

**molto Rall**.....

Open Score

70 a Tempo ♩= 90

E

Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vln. 3
Vln. 4
Vln. 5
Vln. 6
Vla 1
Vla 2
Vc. 1
Vc. 2
D. B.

80

Meno Mosso ♩= 70

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87

Vln. 1 *ppp*

Vln. 2 *ppp*

Vln. 3

Vln. 4

Vln. 5

Vln. 6

Vla 1 *pp*

Vla 2 *ppp*

Vc. 1 *ppp*

Vc. 2 *p dolce, espress.* *pp*

D. B. *ppp*

100

**poco a poco animato**
**accelerando**

**F**

Vln. 1 *ppp* *f*

Vln. 2 *ppp* *f*

Vln. 3 *ppp*

Vln. 4 *ppp* *f*

Vln. 5 *ppp*

Vln. 6 *ppp* *f*

Vla 1 *ppp*

Vla 2 *ppp* *f*

Vc. 1 *ppp* *mf*

Vc. 2 *ppp* *f*

D. B.

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Allegro ♩= 100

109

Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vln. 3
Vln. 4
Vln. 5
Vln. 6
Vla 1
Vla 2
Vc. 1
Vc. 2
D. B.

114

G

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118

Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vln. 3
Vln. 4
Vln. 5
Vln. 6
Vla 1
Vla 2
Vc. 1
Vc. 2
D. B.

123

Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vln. 3
Vln. 4
Vln. 5
Vln. 6
Vla 1
Vla 2
Vc. 1
Vc. 2
D. B.

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127

H

Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vln. 3
Vln. 4
Vln. 5
Vln. 6
Vla 1
Vla 2
Vc. 1
Vc. 2
D. B.

131

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**Poco Meno Mosso** ♩ = 90

I

135

Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vln. 3
Vln. 4
Vln. 5
Vln. 6
Vla 1
Vla 2
Vc. 1
Vc. 2
D. B.

141

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146

Adagio ♩= 50

quasi morendo...

Rall.....

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vln. 3

Vln. 4

Vln. 5

Vln. 6

Vla 1

Vla 2

Vc. 1

Vc. 2

D. B.

3

pp

other side of bridge

ppp

sul tasto

con sord.

pizz.

nat.

sul pont.

155

J Allegro Subito ♩= 100

sfz

f

senza sord.

arco

pppp

© Peter Lieuwen MCA

160

Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vln. 3
Vln. 4
Vln. 5
Vln. 6
Vla 1
Vla 2
Vc. 1
Vc. 2
D. B.

K

165

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170

Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vln. 3
Vln. 4
Vln. 5
Vln. 6
Vla 1
Vla 2
Vc. 1
Vc. 2
D. B.

175

L

© Petrucci

181

Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vln. 3
Vln. 4
Vln. 5
Vln. 6
Vla 1
Vla 2
Vc. 1
Vc. 2
D. B.

187

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193

**M** ♩ = 50

Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vln. 3
Vln. 4
Vln. 5
Vln. 6
Vla 1
Vla 2
Vc. 1
Vc. 2
D. B.

205

**rit.**.....

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