

Patrick Harrex

Passages X

for cello

revised version 2019



Passages X

for cello

Composer's note

Passages X, completed in December 2013 and then slightly revised in 2019, is the latest in a series of short works for solo instruments or voice or small ensembles, the earliest of which date from my student days in Paris.

The generic title (originally French, but which can be read as the English word) was chosen because of its variety of meanings or nuances.

A 'passage' is, among other things, a journey, a process of moving forward in time, a narrow and perhaps confined or restricted alleyway or corridor, a channel, a process of transition from one state to another, a short extract from a literary or musical work. Each of these definitions presents ideas that may be developed in a piece of music.

There is also an interesting biological definition, given that a number of my *Passages* have been developed into other works, which relates to the process of propagating cells in host organisms so as to maintain or modify those cells and allow them to multiply. *Passages I* for solo violin grew into *Conséquences* for viola and piano. *Conséquences* in turn provided material for the third movement of my *Duo for violin and piano* and for *Résonances*, for viola and four instruments. *Passages X* will be developed into a short work for solo cello and small ensemble.

A common characteristic of my *Passages* is the use of short phrases which explore certain technical or physical aspects of the instrument(s) or voice(s). While these may be isolated, perhaps momentary, events, they connect together to take us on a journey around the subject instrument or voice – usually a small scale expedition rather than an intensive examination.

Patrick Harrex

Brighton
3 December 2013/
9 August 2019

Duration: approx. 7'

for Angie Wilson
Passages X
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accidentals apply only to the note they immediately precede
 (cautionary ♯ symbols are added where they may be helpful)

♩ = ca 72

drum with l.h.thumb + fingers on rib

fff (as loud as possible)

fff on/ very close to bridge*

molto accel.

press very hard - distort (still on/ close to bridge)

arco

sempre fff

nat.

♩ = 192

♩ = ca 72

gliss.

pizz. with fingernail*
 in peg box on the string indicated by x

(still as loud as possible)

* or use hard guitar plectrum or similar (e.g. bank card)

* to create a very rough and indeterminate sound; 'near bridge' (later) = the conventional 'sul pont.', when a pitched sound is heard.

arco

gliss.

about 15 seconds

change direction of bow at will

use full length of bow (v. fast 'scoop')

♩ = ca 72

gliss.

fff

0

p → *sfz* → *ff*
 (molto cresc.)

III IV I III IV III I 5 I III pizz. arco I

drum with l.h.thumb + fingers on belly

fff (as loud as possible)

arco

only lightly touch strings with left hand - indeterminate but high pitch
 (may or may not produce clear harmonics)

fff bow with irregular tremolo (independent of left hand)

pizz. with fingernail in peg box

wide vibrato

arco

ff

change direction of bow as smoothly as possible

gradually increase bow pressure (change direction of bow at will)

max. pressure (distorted sound)

gradually reduce bow pressure

normal pressure [II]

gradually move bow on bridge

drum with l.h.thumb + fingers on belly

fff (as loud as possible)

pizz.

ff

3

arco

pizz.

arco

5 5 3 3

sempre ff

pizz.

arco

3 3

leave A & D to resonate

pizz. *sempre ff* arco *fff* pizz. *f* (put bow down)

(strike belly with knuckle) *ff* (pick up bow) *ff* pizz. arco near bridge sul tasto near bridge on bridge

[g and c# not articulated] *p* *fff* *p* *mf*

(gradual change to s.t.) sul tasto pizz. arco (nat.) arco

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

pizz. (l.h.)

con sord. (very long pauses - whole bows) senza vibrato sul G (sul G)

pp *ppp* *ppp* *p dim.*

(put bow down) repeat pizz. as needed to check • pizz. tuning down to low E *pppp* *pp* slowly loosen C string [allow squeaks if they occur!]

(pick up bow) drum with l.h. thumb + fingers on strings (without striking the fingerboard) *ppp* bow C string behind bridge *pppp*

(put bow down) drum with r.h. thumb + fingers on strings (without striking the fingerboard) *ppp*

(pick up bow) , arco gradually change to *col legno tratto* change direction of bow at will *gliss.* niente

(finger C# as A# on [detuned] C string)