

Sai Ma/Racing Horses

for String Quartet

Christian Mason

for the Ligeti Quartet
Sai Ma/Racing Horses

Trad. Chinese, arr.
 Christian Mason (June 2012)

Slow yet flowing

♩ = c.48

sul pont.

Violin I
 Violin II
 Viola
 Violoncello

noisy/crunchy sound
sfz sfz
 sul pont.
 noisy/crunchy sound
sfz sfz
 molto sul pont.
 II senza vib.
 III
 III con vib.
ppp *lautando*
f *p* *ppp*

5

sfz sempre
ppp
 II III 5 con vib.
 III 5
 III 5
 II III 5
 II senza vib.
f *p* *ppp* *f* *pp*

9

nat. harm. beyond fingerboard
 molto vib. (by bending string)
 sul III
 ord.
sfz sempre 7
f *p* *f* *p*
 II senza vib.
 III con vib.
 III
ppp 5 *f* 5 *ppp*
f *ppp*

13

Musical score for measures 13-16. The score is written for four staves: Treble Clef 1, Treble Clef 2, Bass Clef 1, and Bass Clef 2. Measure 13 starts with a treble clef staff containing a melodic line with dynamics *f* and *p*. The second treble staff has a sustained chord with dynamics *f* and *ppp*. The first bass staff has a melodic line with dynamics *ppp* and *f*. The second bass staff has a sustained chord with dynamics *f* and *pp*. Measure 14 continues the melodic lines with dynamics *f* and *p*. Measure 15 features a melodic line with dynamics *f* and *p*, and a bass line with dynamics *ppp* and *f*. Measure 16 ends with a melodic line with dynamics *f* and *pp*, and a bass line with dynamics *f* and *ppp*. Performance markings include *Il senza vib.* and various articulation marks.

A

17

Musical score for measures 17-20. The score is written for four staves. Measure 17 features a treble clef staff with dynamics *ff* and *pespress.*, and a bass clef staff with dynamics *ff* and *p*. Measure 18 includes a treble clef staff with dynamics *ff* and *pespress.*, and a bass clef staff with dynamics *f* and *pespress.*. Measure 19 features a treble clef staff with dynamics *f* and *pespress.*, and a bass clef staff with dynamics *f* and *pespress.*. Measure 20 ends with a treble clef staff with dynamics *f* and *p*, and a bass clef staff with dynamics *f* and *p*. Performance markings include *gliss. on nat. harm.*, *nat. harm. beyond fingerboard molto vib. (by bending string)*, and *grad. -----> ord.*

21

Musical score for measures 21-24. The score is written for four staves. Measure 21 features a treble clef staff with dynamics *f* and *p*, and a bass clef staff with dynamics *f* and *p*. Measure 22 includes a treble clef staff with dynamics *f* and *p*, and a bass clef staff with dynamics *f* and *p*. Measure 23 features a treble clef staff with dynamics *f* and *p*, and a bass clef staff with dynamics *f* and *p*. Measure 24 ends with a treble clef staff with dynamics *f* and *p*, and a bass clef staff with dynamics *f* and *p*. Performance markings include *grad. -----> ord.*

Violins and Viola: vary individual speed as if racing!
Cello: maintain original pulse (with rubato)

24

repeat figure, unsynchronised tempo ad. lib. (♩ = 48 - 76)

ff

gradually accelerate and transform figuration

repeat figure, unsynchronised tempo ad. lib. (♩ = 48 - 76)

ff

gradually accelerate and transform figuration

repeat figure, unsynchronised tempo ad. lib. (♩ = 48 - 76)

ff

gradually accelerate and transform figuration

molto sul tasto

p espress.

28

repeat figure, unsynchronised tempo ad. lib. (♩ = 48 - 76)

pp

repeat figure, unsynchronised tempo ad. lib. (♩ = 48 - 76)

pp

repeat figure, unsynchronised tempo ad. lib. (♩ = 48 - 76)

pp

repeat figure, unsynchronised tempo ad. lib. (♩ = 48 - 76)

f

sfz *sfz*

f *sfz* *sfz*

repeat figure, unsynchronised tempo ad. lib. (♩ = 48 - 76)

f *sfz* *sfz*

32

repeat figure, unsynchronised tempo ad. lib. (♩ = 48 - 76)

sfz *sfz*

B Poco a poco accel. (in unison)

ff sul pont. ord.

ff sul pont. ord.

ff pizz. arco

ff pizz. arco

accel.

36 *sul pont.* *ord.* *sul pont.* *ord.* *sul pont.* *ord.* *sul pont.* *ord.* *sul pont.*

$\text{♩} = 96$

accel.

40 *ord.* *sul pont.* *ord.* *sul pont.* *ord.* *sul pont.* *ord.* *sul pont.*

C Fast, galloping

$\text{♩} = 144$

col legno battuto (1/2 hair, 1/2 wood)
sul pont.

44 *p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f*

48 *ord.* *col legno battuto* *ord.* *col legno battuto* *ord.* *col legno battuto*

52

ff ord.

f p f p f p ff

ff p

ff

56

III p ff IV p ff III p ff IV p ff

arco f 5 f f f 5 f f f f f

arco f f f f f f

IV p ff p ff

60

f p ff

II p ff pizz. ff

I p ff pizz. ff arco 7

III II f p ff gliss. ff 5 5

D

Musical score for section D, measures 64-67. The score consists of four staves. The top staff is in treble clef and contains a melodic line with dynamics *p*, *f*, *p*, and *f*. It includes a quintuplet (5) and a triplet (3). The second staff is in treble clef and contains a pizzicato (pizz.) line with dynamics *f* and *pp*. The third and fourth staves are in bass clef and contain a line with dynamics *p* and a circled 8.

Musical score for section D, measures 68-71. The score consists of four staves. The top staff is in treble clef and contains a melodic line with dynamics *f* and *pp*, including a triplet (3). The second staff is in treble clef and contains a line with dynamics *f* and *pp*. The third and fourth staves are in bass clef and contain a line with dynamics *f* and *pp*.

E

Musical score for section E, measures 72-75. The score consists of four staves. The top staff is in treble clef and contains a melodic line with dynamics *f* and *p*. The second staff is in treble clef and contains a line with dynamics *f* and *p*, including an arco marking. The third staff is in bass clef and contains a line with dynamics *f* and *p*, including pizzicato (pizz.) and arco markings. The fourth staff is in bass clef and contains a line with dynamics *f* and *p*, including pizzicato (pizz.) and arco markings.

76

gliss. III

sul pont.

arco sul pont.

pizz.

f p f p f p

pizz. *p* *ff*

F

80

8^{va}-1 *8^{va}-1* *8^{va}-1* *8^{va}-1* upper notes 8va sempre

col legno battuto (1/2 hair, 1/2 wood) sul pont.

arco *f*

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

poco sul pont.

84

f *5* *ord. ff*

ord. ff

p *f* *ff*

G

88

pp f

pp f

ff pp f pp

arco > ff pp f pp

92

pp f ff

f ff

f sfz sfz sfz sfz

f sfz sfz sfz sfz

96

p f

col legno battuto (1/2 hair, 1/2 wood) sul pont. p f

arco col legno battuto (1/2 hair, 1/2 wood) sul pont. p f

sul pont. arco f > p f > p sim. f ff

ord. p p ord. with rough, harsh sound II (don't worry if harmonics crack)

H Like neighing horses!

100

ff

fff

arco

fff 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

col legno battuto (1/2 hair, 1/2 wood)
sul pont.

p

p

Detailed description: This system contains measures 100, 101, and 102. It features four staves. The top two staves (Violin I and Violin II) play a melodic line of eighth notes with slurs and accents, starting at measure 100 and continuing through 102. The Violin I staff has a dynamic marking of *ff* at the start of measure 100. The Violin II staff has a dynamic marking of *fff* at the start of measure 101. The Violin II staff also includes the instruction 'arco' above the staff and '3' markings below the staff. The Cello and Double Bass staff (bottom two staves) plays a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes with slurs and accents. The Cello staff has a dynamic marking of *ff* at the start of measure 100. The Double Bass staff has a dynamic marking of *p* at the start of measure 101. The instruction 'col legno battuto (1/2 hair, 1/2 wood) sul pont.' is written above the Cello and Double Bass staff in measure 101. The Double Bass staff has a dynamic marking of *p* at the start of measure 101.

103

f

f

Detailed description: This system contains measures 103 and 104. It features four staves. The Violin I and Violin II staves continue the melodic line from the previous system, with slurs and accents. The Violin I staff has a dynamic marking of *f* at the start of measure 103. The Violin II staff has a dynamic marking of *f* at the start of measure 103. The Cello and Double Bass staff continues the rhythmic accompaniment. The Cello staff has a dynamic marking of *f* at the start of measure 103. The Double Bass staff has a dynamic marking of *f* at the start of measure 103. The instruction '3' is written below the Violin I and Violin II staves in measures 103 and 104.

105

fff

fff

high as poss.

high as poss.

high as poss.

wide vib.

high as poss.

Detailed description: This system contains measures 105, 106, and 107. It features four staves. The Violin I and Violin II staves play a melodic line with slurs and accents. The Violin I staff has a dynamic marking of *fff* at the start of measure 105. The Violin II staff has a dynamic marking of *fff* at the start of measure 105. The Cello and Double Bass staff plays a rhythmic accompaniment with slurs and accents. The Cello staff has a dynamic marking of *fff* at the start of measure 105. The Double Bass staff has a dynamic marking of *fff* at the start of measure 105. The instruction 'high as poss.' is written above the Violin I, Violin II, and Cello staves in measures 105, 106, and 107. The instruction 'wide vib.' is written above the Double Bass staff in measure 107.