

*John Woolrich*

*Viola Concerto*

(1993)

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The *Viola Concerto* was commissioned by the Cheltenham International Festival for Paul Silverthorne, with funds from South West Arts

The first performance was given by Paul Silverthorne and the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Yan Pascal Tortelier in the Town Hall, Cheltenham on 2 July 1995, as part of the Cheltenham International Festival

Duration: c. 20 minutes

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# ORCHESTRA

2 Flutes (1st doubling Piccolo, 2nd doubling Alto flute)

2 Oboes


2 Clarinets in B $\flat$  (2nd doubling Bass clarinet)

2 Bassoons (2nd doubling Contrabassoon)

2 Horns in F

2 Trumpets in B $\flat$

Percussion (2 players)

12 Thai gongs (chromatic octave )

2 Tam tams (large and very large), Large bass drum, Spring coil

Harp

Strings

The score is notated in C

*Orchestral parts available for hire from the publishers  
A larger-sized conductor's score is available for hire on request from the publishers*

## PROGRAMME NOTE

My concerto is really a cycle of seven bleak and brooding songs-without-words. The viola sings, and the orchestra echoes its song in predominantly soft and gentle colours: flute, harp and tolling gongs.

Each 'song' ends with a horn 'lebewohl' farewell and each contains an allusion, sometimes hidden, to an opera, a song or a madrigal. The trio from *Così fan tutte*, 'Soave sia il vento', invokes gentle winds to blow the lovers' ship back to shore; Penelope despairs, 'You, you alone make no returning' in 'Torna il tranquillo al mare' from Monteverdi's *Il ritorno d'Ulisse in patria*; there is the ghost of Schumann's allusion to Beethoven's *An die ferne Geliebte*, and the reminiscences of *Tristan* ('No ship there on the sea?') and *Idomeneo* ('Placido è il mar, andiamo ...'). The last song comes from Monteverdi's madrigal *O sia tranquillo il mare*: 'Whether the sea is calm or rough I will wait for you to return'. The singer's laments are carried away on the winds, and the music resolves into a slow, dark rocking.

JW

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# Viola Concerto

JOHN WOOLRICH

## 1. Soave sia il vento

Libero  $\text{♩} = c.80$

Flute

Alto Flute

Oboe 1.2

Clarinet in B $\flat$

Bass Clarinet in B $\flat$

Bassoon

Contrabassoon

Horn in F 1.2

Trumpet in B $\flat$  1.2

1

2

Percussion

Harp

Viola Solo

Libero  $\text{♩} = c.80$

Violin I

Violin II

Viola

Violoncello

Double bass

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

*pp* *mp* *pp* *mp* *pp*

*pp* *mf* *mf*

*pp* *pizz.* *mp*

*div.* *p*

*pp* *pizz.* *p*

12

Fl. I

A. Fl.

Cl. I

B. Cl.

Bsn I

Hr

2

Hp

Viola Solo

Vin I

Vin II

Vla

Vc.

Db.

2 soli, sul pont.

tutti, nat.

2nd half

tutti, arco

arco

*ppp*, *pp*, *p*, *mf*, *f*, *ppp < mp >*, *pp < mp*, *ppp < p >*, *p*, *mp*, *mf*, *p cresc.*, *mf*, *f*, *pp > ppp*, *ppp*, *pp*, *mp*, *pp*, *ppp*, *ppp*, *f*, *f*, *f*, *pp*, *mp*, *pp*, *p > pp*, *pp*, *mp*, *pp*, *p > pp*

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Fl. 1  
p pp p < mf pp pp

A. Fl.  
pp p pp pp pp

Cl. 1  
pp

B. Cl.  
pp pp pp

Bsn 1  
pp pp

Cbsn  
pp pp

Hn 2  
p

Tpt 1, 2  
con sord. p

Perc. 2  
Large Tam tam pp

Hp  
mf mf f mf f

Viola Solo  
f p mp 3 3 mf p p 3 5 f p

Vln I  
4 soli. pizz. tutti, arco p ppp p > ppp

Vln II  
pp ppp p > ppp

Vla  
pp ppp pp

Vc.  
pp pp pp

Db.  
pp pp pp

30

Fl. I

A. Fl.

Cl. I

B. Cl.

Bsn I

Cbsn

Hn 1

Hn 2

Tpt 1

Tpt 2

Hp

Viola Solo

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

Db.

*p* *f* *p* *ff* *p*

*p* *ff* *p*

*pp* *f* *f*

to Clarinet

*pp* *f*

*pp* *f*

*pp* *f*

*pp* *f*

*pp* *f* *pp*

*p* *f* *p* *pp*

*p* *f*

*mf* *ff* *p* *f*

*f* *ff* *mp sub.* *ff* *p sub.*

*ppp* *mf* *pp* *ff* *tutti. pizz.* *p*

*ppp* *mf* *pp* *ff* *tutti. pizz.* *p*

*mf* *ff* *pp*

*f* *pp* *p*

*f*



37

Fl. 1  
A. Fl.  
1  
Ob.  
2  
Cl. 1  
Bsn 1  
1  
Hn  
2  
1  
Tpt  
2  
Hp  
Viola Solo  
Vln I  
Vln II  
Vla  
Vc.  
Db.

*ff* *pp* *p* *pp* *ff* *p* *p* *ff*  
*ff* *p* *pp* *ff* *p* *ff*  
*mf* *f* *pp* *f* *p* *ff*  
*mf* *f* *mf* *f* *f* *p* *ff*  
*p* *p* *ff*  
*p*  
*pp* *f*  
*f*  
*f* *p* *f*  
*f* *p* *mf*  
*ff* *p* *f* *ff*  
*ff* *p* *ff* *f* *ff*  
*ff*  
*f* *f*  
*f* *pizz.* *f*  
*p* *f* *mf* *f*  
*pizz.* *f*



47

Fl. 1 *f*

Ob. 1 *f* 5

Cl. 1 *f* 5

Bsn 1 *f* 3

Hn 1 *mf* *p*

Hn 2 *sfz* *pp*

Tpt 1 *f* 5

Hp 3

Viola Solo 3

Vln I

Vln II *p* arco sul pont.

Vla *p* arco

Vc. *p* arco

Db. *p*

poco rall.

50

Fl. 1 *(f)* *ff* *f* *p*

A. Fl. *ff*

Ob. 1 *(f)* *f* *p* solo *f* *p*

Ob. 2 *f* *f*

Cl. 1 *(f)*

Bsn 1 *(f)* *f*

Hr. 1 *f*

Hr. 2 *p* *f*

Tpt. 1 *f* *f* *f* *f* *p*

Tpt. 2 *f* *f* *f* *f* *p*

Hp. *f*

Viola Solo *fff* *3*

poco rall.

Vln I *div. a 3. pizz.* *f* *un. arco* *p* *f*

Vln II *f* *mf* *f*

Vla. *f* *pizz.* *f* *arco sul pont.* *p* *f*

Vc. *pizz.* *f* *f*

Db. *(pizz.)* *f*

**Lentissimo** **a tempo**

Fl. I  
A. Fl.  
Hn I.2  
Tpt I.2  
Perc. 2  
Viola Solo  
Vln I  
Vln II  
Vla  
Vc.

con sord.  
con sord. (wawa)  
Bass drum  
p  
ppp  
ppp < p > ppp  
ppp < p > ppp  
ppp  
p espress.  
con sord.  
con sord. ppp  
con sord. ppp  
con sord. div. ppp  
con sord. div. arco ppp

to Flute  
sim.

3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

**Still, dolcissimo**  $\text{♩} = 84$

Fl. I.2  
Ob. I.2  
Hn I  
Perc. 1  
Perc. 2  
Hp  
Viola Solo

senza sord.  
Thai gongs  
pp  
pp  
ff  
ff  
pp  
pp sub.

3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

**Still, dolcissimo**  $\text{♩} = 84$

Vln I  
Vln II  
Vla  
Vc.  
Db.

2 soli. pizz.  
ff  
ppp  
ppp  
ppp  
ppp  
ppp  
ppp

ppp  
ppp  
ppp  
ppp  
ppp