

Sonata for Solo Cello

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Commissioned by Steven Isserlis with funds provided by the John S. Cohen Foundation.

This work is based on a theme by Sir William Walton (1902-1983) dating from 1970. On the original manuscript, Walton wrote: 'Tema per variazioni' but, as far as we know, he never added any variations. When Steven Isserlis asked me to write variations on this theme, I decided to compose a piece which is a voyage of discovery in search of Walton's melody. The music is in four continuous movements: Praeludium, Passacaglia, Dance and Song. The first three are based on various aspects of the original which, having been gradually revealed, is heard as the 'Song' at the close.

The work is dedicated to the memory of Steven Isserlis' mother, Cynthia Isserlis, who died whilst I was working on the score.

Robert Saxton
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Duration: 10 mins.ca

Quotation from the music of Sir William Walton is made by permission of Oxford University Press.

The work was first performed by Steven Isserlis in Aldeburgh Parish Church as part of the Aldeburgh Festival 2000.

Handwritten musical notation for the first system, featuring bass clef staves. The notation includes several triplet markings (indicated by a '3' above a bracket) and dynamic markings: *f* (forte), *dim.* (diminuendo), *mp (sonore)* (mezzo-piano, sonorous), and *mf* (mezzo-forte).

Handwritten musical notation for the second system, including dynamic markings: *f*, *(sub) mp*, *(molto) f*, and *mf cresc.* (mezzo-forte, crescendo). The notation also features various triplet and quintuplet markings.

Handwritten musical notation for the third system, including dynamic markings: *ff (molto espress.)* (fortissimo, molto espressivo), *fff* (fortississimo), and *f*. The notation includes quintuplet markings and triplet markings.

Handwritten musical notation for the fourth system, including dynamic markings: *mp(sub)* (mezzo-piano, sublimato) and *mf* (mezzo-forte). The notation includes triplet markings.

Handwritten musical notation for the fifth system, including the instruction *poco a poco cresc.* (poco a poco, crescendo) and a circled number **2** at the end of the line.

Musical notation for the first system, featuring a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The notation includes various rhythmic values, accidentals, and dynamic markings such as *ff*. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-3, and articulation marks like slurs and accents are present.

Musical notation for the second system, featuring a grand staff (treble and bass clefs). It includes dynamic markings such as *mf*, *f*, *mp*, *mf*, *f*, and *mf*. A *poco* marking is also visible. The notation includes triplets and slurs.

Musical notation for the third system, featuring a grand staff. It includes dynamic markings such as *mf*, *mp*, *f*, *mf*, and *f*. The notation includes triplets and slurs. A *cresc.* marking is present at the end of the system.

Musical notation for the fourth system, featuring a grand staff. It includes dynamic markings such as *mf*. The notation includes slurs and articulation marks.

Musical notation for the fifth system, featuring a treble clef. It includes dynamic markings such as *cresc.* and various rhythmic values and accidentals.