

Pastorale

for Viola and Electronics

Willyn Whiting

2022

INSTRUMENTATION

Viola (Scordatura IV = B2)

Stereo Audio

Duration 5'52''

PROGRAM NOTE

E quindi sul fiorito ameno prato
Al caro mormorio di fronde e piante
Dorme 'l Caprar col fido can' à lato.

On the flower-strewn meadow, with leafy branches
rustling overhead, the goat-herd sleeps,
his faithful dog beside him.

(Antonio Vivaldi 1725, Translation by
Armad D'Angour 2019)

To many the Viola in movement two of Antonio Vivaldi's Spring is simply imitating the sound of the goat-herd's dog barking. This is not just any dog, however, but an idealized dog, one that exists only in memory or perhaps doesn't exist at all. The Viola line is also more than a sonic object but a role. Its bassline portraying something of the dog's faithfulness to its master. In this way Vivaldi not only zoomorphizes the Violist but anthropomorphizes the dog. Another interpretation could be that the dog is simply holding the bassline because it is physically below us and we the listener are the goat-herd.

In *Pastorale* (2022) I try to articulate how this movement not only describes a human-animal relationship but power dynamics between people. Moreover, I want to explore how these dynamics can be subverted through a musical project.

Written for SPLICE Festival 2022 for a premiere by Elsie Bae Han.

PERFORMANCE NOTES

Bowing Pos. Staff

The top line of the staff indicates the bridge. The bottom line of the staff indicates the fingerboard.

Sounding Staff

For notating where the scordatura will sound as well as harmonics.

Harmonics

o = above a note will indicate that it is the sounding pitch of a harmonic.

diamond = indicates finger position

glissandi = may be used to indicate gradual changes in finger pressure

X -notehead

Used to indicate that a sound should have no pitch.

♭ = quarter tone flat

♮ = quarter tone sharp

Pastorale

Wilyln Whiting

$\text{♩} = 60$

Bridge

Bowing Pos. Finger Board

Sounding

Barking Whining

Viola IV = B2

fff *pp*

Electronics

High Viola Crinkling Squeaks

5

Vla.

fff *pp*

Elec.

Whistle

6 3 3