

# **Two Pieces**

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for String Quartet

Willyn Whiting

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#### PROGRAM NOTE

These two pieces were written as a pair of studies on the production of natural harmonics. Piece A systematically explores intervals which are possible using the first eleven harmonics on any available string. The harmonic motion is from intervallic complexity towards simplicity. Piece B explores the range of notes produced by slow harmonic glissandi, on specific strings. These glissandi are isolated from the bowing patterns of the ensemble.

This piece was written for a reading session offered by the Spektral Quartet at the University of North Texas, in the spring of 2019.

#### PERFORMANCE NOTES

The two pieces can be performed in either order and are therefore labeled A and B.

Piece A is notated with two staves to each part. The top staff indicates the sounding pitch of the harmonics which are notated on the bottom staff. Do not worry about producing upper partials immaculately or without noise. It is the subtleties and inaccuracies of performance that will interest the listener. Similarly, don't worry about lining up dynamics perfectly or entering at exactly the same time.

Piece B is also notated with two staves to each part; however this is a decoupled notation where left hand finger placement is notated in one staff and right hand bowing in the other. Both Violins and the Viola all share the same LH staff.



# Two Pieces - A

♩ = 42 (5" per measure)

Start each crescendo at niente.

Finish each diminuendo at niente.

The musical score is written for four instruments: Violin I, Violin II, Viola, and Cello. The tempo is marked as ♩ = 42 (5" per measure). The score is divided into two systems. The first system consists of four measures. In the first measure, Violin I and Violin II play a half note G4 (marked with a fermata and a diamond), while Viola and Cello play a half note G3 (marked with a fermata and a diamond). The second measure features a crescendo for all instruments, with dynamics marked *pp*. The third measure features a diminuendo for all instruments, with dynamics marked *pp*. The fourth measure returns to the initial notes, with dynamics marked *mp*. The second system also consists of four measures. The first measure has a fermata on G4 for Violin I and G3 for Viola and Cello, with dynamics marked *mp*. The second measure features a crescendo for all instruments, with dynamics marked *pp*. The third measure features a diminuendo for all instruments, with dynamics marked *pp*. The fourth measure returns to the initial notes, with dynamics marked *mp*. The score includes various musical notations such as fermatas, slurs, and dynamic markings.