

Benjamin Williams
Parting Song
for
Chamber Orchestra

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Duration: 8 min.

I had the opportunity last summer to not only host the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra's Premiere Orchestral Institute at Mississippi College, but also to be their 'Composer in Residence'. They performed some of my chamber music and I wrote a number of pieces for one of their youngest orchestras. When all was said and done, I looked back on the week and realized how much I cherished the brief moments I spent with those incredible musicians. I suppose that comes with being a musician and academic, there are often large spans of time between the opportunities I have to see and work with many of my colleagues.

When I was asked to write for POI's 'Master Camerata' this year, I reflected on the experience of the bittersweet partings that come with summer. 'Bitter' in terms of parting with my friends and colleagues from the academic year and then again from the summer festivals back to the college; 'sweet' in that each provides a time of rest and restoration to start again. *Parting Song* begins with a sort of 'catching one's breath' in the strings. The music oscillates back and forth between the two intertwined feelings of sadness and joy ultimately ending in a place of pure rest. There are, of course, a great deal of 'partings' that we experience for which this pattern recurs, including the passing away of loved ones. Again, there is the bittersweet experience: bitter in the temporary parting; sweet in the eternal peace that we look forward to when we come back together again. For me, this piece was an opportunity to reflect on what it means to truly rest in the enjoyment of the relationships I take a part in each and every day.

Score

for Ivan del Prado

Parting Song

Benjamin Williams

(b. 1982)

Molto Adagio $\text{♩} = 46$

(2014)

The musical score is written for a chamber ensemble. It consists of nine staves, each representing a different instrument. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#), and the time signature is 4/4, which changes to 2/4 in the second measure of each staff. The tempo is marked 'Molto Adagio' with a quarter note equal to 46 beats per minute. The score begins with a four-measure rest for all instruments. In the fifth measure, the Bassoon and Horn in F parts begin with a first ending (marked '1.') and a piano (*p*) dynamic. The string instruments (Violin I, Violin II, Viola, and Cello) enter in the fifth measure with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The Flute and Oboe parts remain silent throughout the shown section. The Double Bass part also remains silent.

Parting Song

This musical score is for a section titled 'Parting Song', page 2. It features a variety of instruments including Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Bassoon (Bsn.), Horn (Hn.), Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Double Bass (D.B.). The music is written in a key with two sharps (F# and C#) and a 4/4 time signature. The score consists of four measures. The first measure shows the Flute and Bassoon with a fermata. In the second measure, the Oboe and Bassoon enter with a melodic line marked *mp* and a first ending bracket. The Flute and Horn also have notes. The third measure continues the Oboe and Bassoon line, with the Flute and Horn playing chords. The fourth measure concludes the section with a final melodic flourish in the Flute and Oboe, and sustained chords in the Bassoon and Horn. Dynamic markings include *p* at the start, *mp* and *mf* throughout, and *mp* at the end.

Fl.
Ob. 1,2
Bsn. 1,2
Hn. 1,2
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.

p
mp
mf
mp
mf
mp
mp
mp

This musical score page, titled "Parting Song" and numbered "3", features a woodwind and string ensemble. The woodwind section includes Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob. 1,2), Bassoon (Bsn. 1,2), and Horn (Hn. 1,2). The string section includes Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Double Bass (D.B.). The score is divided into four measures. The first measure is marked with a "9" above the staff. The second measure is marked with a "3/4" time signature. The third measure is marked with a "4/4" time signature. The fourth measure is marked with a "4/4" time signature. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#). The woodwinds play melodic lines, while the strings provide harmonic support. Dynamics include *mf* (mezzo-forte) and *mp* (mezzo-piano). The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, slurs, and dynamic markings.

13

Fl.

mf

Ob. 1,2

mf

Bsn. 1,2

mf

Hn. 1,2

mf

Vln. I

mf

Vln. II

mf

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

Detailed description: This page of a musical score, titled 'Parting Song', covers measures 13 through 15. The score is arranged for a full orchestra. The Flute (Fl.) part begins in measure 13 with a melodic line, marked *mf*. The Oboe (Ob. 1,2) and Bassoon (Bsn. 1,2) parts also start in measure 13, with the Oboe playing a more active role. The Horns (Hn. 1,2) are silent until measure 15, where they enter with a chordal accompaniment, also marked *mf*. The Violin I (Vln. I) and Violin II (Vln. II) parts play a melodic line with a long note in measure 14. The Viola (Vla.) part provides harmonic support. The Violoncello (Vc.) and Double Bass (D.B.) parts play a simple bass line. The score includes dynamic markings (*mf*) and various musical notations such as slurs, ties, and articulation marks.

This musical score page, titled "Parting Song" and numbered "5", contains measures 16 through 20. The score is arranged for a full orchestra and includes the following parts: Flute (Fl.), Oboe 1 and 2 (Ob. 1,2), Bassoon 1 and 2 (Bsn. 1,2), Horn 1 and 2 (Hn. 1,2), Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Double Bass (D.B.). The music is in the key of D major and features a complex, multi-measure rest for measures 16 and 17, followed by a change to 3/4 time for measures 18 and 19, and a return to 2/4 time for measure 20. The dynamic marking *f* (forte) is indicated for measures 18, 19, and 20. The Flute part has a fermata in measure 18. The Bassoon part has a first ending (1.) in measure 18 and a second ending (2.) in measure 19. The Violin I, Violin II, and Viola parts have a first ending (1.) in measure 18 and a second ending (2.) in measure 19. The Violoncello and Double Bass parts have a first ending (1.) in measure 18 and a second ending (2.) in measure 19. The score is written in a standard orchestral layout with staves for each instrument.

20

Fl.

Ob. 1,2

Bsn. 1,2

Hn. 1,2

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

The musical score is for a section of a piece titled "Parting Song". It consists of nine staves, each representing a different instrument: Flute (Fl.), Oboe 1 and 2 (Ob. 1,2), Bassoon 1 and 2 (Bsn. 1,2), Horn 1 and 2 (Hn. 1,2), Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Double Bass (D.B.). The score begins at measure 20. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#). The time signature changes from 3/4 to 4/4, then to 2/4, and finally to 3/4. The Flute and Oboe parts are mostly rests, while the Bassoon, Horn, Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Violoncello, and Double Bass parts have active melodic lines. The Viola part features a prominent sixteenth-note pattern in the first measure of the 3/4 section.

Musical score for Parting Song, page 7, showing staves for Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob. 1,2), Bassoon (Bsn. 1,2), Horn (Hn. 1,2), Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Double Bass (D.B.). The score is in 3/4 time and features a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The tempo is marked *p* (piano). The score is divided into measures of 3/4, 4/4, 3/4, 2/4, and 12/8. The 12/8 measure is the final measure of the page. The score includes dynamic markings such as *p* and *pp*, and articulation marks like slurs and accents. The Flute part starts with a measure rest, followed by a half note G4. The Oboe part starts with a measure rest, followed by a half note G4. The Bassoon part starts with a half note G3. The Horn part starts with a half note G4. The Violin I part starts with a quarter note G4, followed by a quarter note A4. The Violin II part starts with a quarter note G4, followed by a quarter note A4. The Viola part starts with a quarter note G4, followed by a quarter note A4. The Violoncello part starts with a half note G3. The Double Bass part starts with a half note G3. The score is marked with a *p* dynamic and includes slurs and accents. The 12/8 measure is the final measure of the page.

Più mosso ♩. = 60

Solo

28

Fl.

Ob. 1,2

Bsn. 1,2

Hn. 1,2

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

mf

p

p

p

2 2 2

Parting Song

31

Fl.

Ob. 1,2

Bsn. 1,2

Hn. 1,2

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

2 2 2

mf

mf

mf

mf

mf

mf

mf

34

Fl. *mf*

Ob. 1,2 1. 2. *mf*

Bsn. 1,2

Hn. 1,2 *mf*

Vln. I 2

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

Detailed description: This page of a musical score, titled 'Parting Song', covers measures 34 and 35. The score is for a full orchestra. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The instruments and their parts are: Flute (Fl.) starts measure 34 with a melodic line marked *mf*. Oboe (Ob. 1,2) and Bassoon (Bsn. 1,2) have rests in measure 34 and enter in measure 35 with a melodic line marked *mf*. Horns (Hn. 1,2) have rests in measure 34 and enter in measure 35 with a chordal accompaniment marked *mf*. Violin I (Vln. I) has a melodic line starting in measure 34 and continuing into measure 35. Violin II (Vln. II) has a simple accompaniment. Viola (Vla.) has a melodic line starting in measure 34. Violoncello (Vc.) and Double Bass (D.B.) have accompaniment lines. The score includes first and second endings for the Oboe and Violin I parts.

Musical score for 'Parting Song' page 11, measures 36-38. The score is in 3/4 time and B-flat major. The instruments are Flute (Fl.), Oboe 1 and 2 (Ob. 1,2), Bassoon 1 and 2 (Bsn. 1,2), Horn 1 and 2 (Hn. 1,2), Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Double Bass (D.B.).

Measure 36: Flute is silent. Oboe 1 and 2 play a triplet of eighth notes (G4, A4, Bb4) with a first finger fingering (2). Bassoon 1 and 2 play a dotted quarter note (G3). Horn 1 and 2 play a dotted quarter note (G3). Violin I plays a dotted quarter note (G4). Violin II plays a dotted quarter note (G4). Viola plays a sixteenth-note triplet (G4, A4, Bb4). Violoncello and Double Bass play a dotted quarter note (G3).

Measure 37: Flute is silent. Oboe 1 and 2 play a triplet of eighth notes (G4, A4, Bb4) with a first finger fingering (2). Bassoon 1 and 2 play a dotted quarter note (G3). Horn 1 and 2 play a dotted quarter note (G3). Violin I plays a dotted quarter note (G4). Violin II plays a dotted quarter note (G4). Viola plays a sixteenth-note triplet (G4, A4, Bb4). Violoncello and Double Bass play a dotted quarter note (G3).

Measure 38: Flute is silent. Oboe 1 and 2 play a dotted quarter note (G4) with a slur. Bassoon 1 and 2 play a dotted quarter note (G3) with a slur. Horn 1 and 2 play a dotted quarter note (G3) with a slur. Violin I plays a dotted quarter note (G4) with a slur. Violin II plays a dotted quarter note (G4) with a slur. Viola plays a dotted quarter note (G4) with a slur. Violoncello and Double Bass play a dotted quarter note (G3) with a slur.

This musical score page, titled "Parting Song", shows measures 38 through 41. The music is in a 12/8 time signature with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The score is arranged for a full orchestra, with each instrument part starting at measure 38. The dynamics are consistently marked as *f* (forte). The Flute (Fl.) part features a melodic line with slurs and grace notes. The Oboe (Ob. 1,2) and Bassoon (Bsn. 1,2) parts provide harmonic support with sustained notes and slurs. The Horns (Hn. 1,2) play a steady accompaniment. The Violin I (Vln. I) part has a long slur across measures 38 and 39. The Violin II (Vln. II) part includes triplets in measures 39 and 40. The Viola (Vla.) part has a simple accompaniment. The Violoncello (Vc.) part features a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with slurs. The Double Bass (D.B.) part provides a steady accompaniment with slurs.

38

Fl.

f

Ob. 1,2

f

Bsn. 1,2

f

Hn. 1,2

f

f

Vln. I

f

Vln. II

f

2 2 2

Vla.

f

Vc.

f

D.B.

f

Musical score for 'Parting Song', page 13. The score is arranged in a multi-staff format with the following instruments and parts:

- Fl. (Flute):** Measures 40-42. Dynamic *mp* in measure 42.
- Ob. 1,2 (Oboe 1 & 2):** Measures 40-42. Dynamic *mp* in measure 42.
- Bsn. 1,2 (Bassoon 1 & 2):** Measures 40-42. Dynamics *mf* in measure 41 and *mp* in measure 42.
- Hn. 1,2 (Horn 1 & 2):** Measures 40-42. Dynamic *mf* in measure 41.
- Vln. I (Violin I):** Measures 40-42. Dynamic *mf* in measure 41.
- Vln. II (Violin II):** Measures 40-42. Dynamic *mf* in measure 41.
- Vla. (Viola):** Measures 40-42. Dynamic *mf* in measure 41.
- Vc. (Violoncello):** Measures 40-42. Dynamic *mf* in measure 41.
- D.B. (Double Bass):** Measures 40-42. Dynamic *mf* in measure 41.

The score is in 4/4 time and features dynamics of *mp* (mezzo-piano) and *mf* (mezzo-forte). Measure 40 is marked at the beginning of the first staff. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and slurs.

43

Fl.

Ob. 1,2

Bsn. 1,2

Hn. 1,2

mp

Vln. I

Vln. II

mp

Vla.

mp

Vc.

mp

D.B.

mp

47

Fl.

Ob. 1,2

Bsn. 1,2

Hn. 1,2

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

mp *f* *f* *f* *f* *f*

1. 2.

2 2 2

2

2

2

49

Fl.

Ob. 1,2

Bsn. 1,2

Hn. 1,2

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

mp

p

Detailed description: This is a page of a musical score for a symphony, page 16, measures 49-51. The score is for a full orchestra and includes parts for Flute (Fl.), Oboe 1 and 2 (Ob. 1,2), Bassoon 1 and 2 (Bsn. 1,2), Horn 1 and 2 (Hn. 1,2), Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Double Bass (D.B.). The key signature is B-flat major (two flats) and the time signature is 4/4. Measure 49 starts with a dynamic of *mp* (mezzo-piano). The Flute part has a melodic line with a slur over the final two notes. The Oboe and Bassoon parts have a similar melodic line. The Horns play a sustained chord. The Violin I part has a melodic line with a slur. The Violin II part has a melodic line. The Viola part has a fast, rhythmic pattern. The Violoncello part has a melodic line with a slur. The Double Bass part has a melodic line with a slur. The score ends with a double bar line and repeat signs.

52

Fl.

Ob. 1,2

Bsn. 1,2

p

52

Hn. 1,2

52

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

p

D.B.

p

This musical score is for the piece "Parting Song" and is page 20. It features a full orchestral ensemble. The score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The key signature is G major, and the time signature is 4/4. The score is divided into three measures. The first measure starts at measure 64. The instruments and their parts are as follows:

- Fl.:** Flute part, starting with a half note G4, followed by a quarter rest, and then a quarter note G4 in the third measure.
- Ob. 1,2:** Oboe parts, playing a half note G4 in the first measure, followed by a quarter rest, and then a quarter note G4 in the third measure.
- Bsn. 1,2:** Bassoon parts, playing a half note G4 in the first measure, followed by a quarter rest, and then a quarter note G4 in the third measure.
- Hn. 1,2:** Horn parts, playing a half note G4 in the first measure, followed by a quarter rest, and then a quarter note G4 in the third measure.
- Vln. I:** Violin I part, playing a half note G4 in the first measure, followed by a quarter rest, and then a quarter note G4 in the third measure.
- Vln. II:** Violin II part, playing a half note G4 in the first measure, followed by a quarter rest, and then a quarter note G4 in the third measure.
- Vla.:** Viola part, playing a half note G4 in the first measure, followed by a quarter rest, and then a quarter note G4 in the third measure.
- Vc.:** Violoncello part, playing a half note G4 in the first measure, followed by a quarter rest, and then a quarter note G4 in the third measure.
- D.B.:** Double Bass part, playing a half note G4 in the first measure, followed by a quarter rest, and then a quarter note G4 in the third measure.

The score includes dynamic markings such as *f* (forte) and *p* (piano), and articulation marks like accents (>) and slurs. The Flute part has a slur over the notes in the third measure. The Oboe and Bassoon parts have a slur over the notes in the third measure. The Horn parts have a slur over the notes in the third measure. The Violin I and II parts have a slur over the notes in the third measure. The Viola part has a slur over the notes in the third measure. The Violoncello and Double Bass parts have a slur over the notes in the third measure.

Mesto ♩ = 46

67

Fl.

mp

Ob. 1,2

Bsn. 1,2

Solo

p

67

Hn. 1,2

p

67

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

p

D.B.

p

71

Fl.

Ob. 1,2

Bsn. 1,2

Hn. 1,2

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

1.

p

p

p

p

Tempo I (♩ = 46)

75

Fl.

Ob. 1,2

Bsn. 1,2

Hn. 1,2

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

2.

1.

1.

pp

pp

pp

pp

p

p

p

p

p

p

p

80

Fl.

Ob. 1,2

Bsn. 1,2

Hn. 1,2

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

84

Fl.

Ob. 1,2

Bsn. 1,2

Hn. 1,2

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

mp

mf

1.

88

Fl. *mf*

Ob. 1,2
1. *mf*

Bsn. 1,2
mp *mf*

Hn. 1,2 *mf*

Vln. I *mf*

Vln. II *mf*

Vla. *mf*

Vc. *mf*

D.B. *mf*

