

Quartet for a New Beginning

**for Violin, Clarinet,
Violoncello, and Piano**



premier performance by Aurora Musicalis, February 10, 2010

Bill Robinson

Quartet for a New Beginning

for Violin, B^b Clarinet, Violoncello, and Piano

July 4—December 16, 2006

Duration: 23 minutes

Eric Pritchard, first violinist with the Ciompi Quartet at Duke University, recommended that I write a quartet with the same instrumentation as Messiaen's *Quartet for the End of Time*. My work is very different—and with far briefer program notes! The first three movements are titled after the three gunas of Hinduism. Rajas is restless activity, Tamas is darkness, and Satvas is spiritually elevated and full of light. The last movement is a celebration after the Earth is green again and the dust settles following the changes to come in the near future.

There is also a version of this work for piano quartet, substituting viola for clarinet. I hope that musicians will consider QFNB short enough to join Messiaen's quartet on the same program.

In recognition of his good idea, and in gratitude for helping bring my music to life, this work is dedicated to Eric Pritchard—I hope he has fun with it!

This quartet was premiered at Weymouth Center in Southern Pines, NC on January 10, 2010, and had its concert hall premier on February 10, 2010 at the Nelson Music Room at Duke University in the memorial concert for my sister Akanda. Both performances were by Aurora Musicalis.

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Quartet for a New Beginning

Marcia kaliyuga ♩ = 68 1. Rajas [6:20] Bill Robinson

Violin

Clarinet in B_♭

Cello

Piano

Vln.

Cl.

Vc.

6

11

11

p

p

ff

ff

ff

p

mp

mf

f

ff

mp

mf

f

ff

QFNB Mov. 1

2

Vln. 15

Cl. 15

Vc. 15

8vb-----

Vln. 19

Cl. 19

Vc. 19

8va-----

Vln. 24

Cl. 24

Vc. 24

8va-----

p *mp*

pp *mp*

p *mp*

31

Vln.

Cl.

Vc.

mf

31

34

Vln.

Cl.

Vc.

[optional molto rit. ----- a tempo]

ff

34

37

Vln.

Cl.

Vc.

37

QFNB Mov. 1

4

40

Vln.

Cl.

Vc.

(8^{vb})

8^{va}

44

Vln.

Cl.

Vc.

ff

mp

ff

mp

ff

mp

51

Vln.

Cl.

Vc.

51

46

46

58

Vln.

Cl.

Vc.

mp *mf* *f*

58

Detailed description: This system contains measures 58 to 62. The Violin (Vln.) part features a melodic line with accents and dynamic markings of *mp*, *mf*, and *f*. The Clarinet (Cl.) and Violoncello (Vc.) parts provide harmonic support with similar dynamics. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and moving lines in both hands, with dynamic markings *mp*, *mf*, and *f* indicated.

63

Vln.

Cl.

Vc.

ff

63

Detailed description: This system contains measures 63 to 67. The Violin (Vln.), Clarinet (Cl.), and Violoncello (Vc.) parts are marked *ff* (fortissimo). The piano accompaniment features complex chordal textures and moving lines, with a 'Red.' (Reduction) marking appearing in measures 65 and 67.

68

Vln.

Cl.

Vc.

68

Detailed description: This system contains measures 68 to 72. The Violin (Vln.), Clarinet (Cl.), and Violoncello (Vc.) parts continue their melodic and harmonic roles. The piano accompaniment features dense chordal textures and moving lines, with an '8vb' (8va) marking appearing in measure 72.

QFNB Mov. 1

6

72

Vln.

Cl.

Vc.

72

77

Vln.

Cl.

Vc.

77

83

Vln.

Cl.

Vc.

83

88

Vln.

Cl.

Vc.

mp

mp

mp

88

93

Vln.

Cl.

Vc.

mf

f

ff

p

mf

f

ff

p

mf

f

ff

p

93

99

Vln.

Cl.

Vc.

pp

pp

p

pp

pp

p

99

QFNB Mov. 1

8

104

Vln.

Cl.

Vc.

104

108

Vln.

Cl.

Vc.

108

arco

p

p

Red.

112

Vln.

Cl.

Vc.

112

ff

ff

ff

mp

8vb

116

Vln.

Cl.

Vc.

(8^{vb})

121

Vln.

Cl.

Vc.

accel.

121

6

6

Reo.

125

Vln.

Cl.

Vc.

a tempo

125

6

6

f

Reo.

QFNB Mov. 1

10

130

Vln.

Cl.

Vc.

mp

mp

p

mp

p

mp

134

Vln.

Cl.

Vc.

mp

mp

138

Vln.

Cl.

Vc.

mp

mp

mp

mp

153

Vln.

Cl.

Vc.

153

mf

mf

mf

159

Vln.

Cl.

Vc.

ff

p

ff

p

165

Vln.

Cl.

Vc.

ff

p

171

Vln.

Cl.

Vc.

ff

ff

ff

ff

8vb-----

175

Vln.

Cl.

Vc.

175

179

Vln.

Cl.

Vc.

pp

pp

pp

p

p

179

185

Vln.

Cl.

Vc.

185

198

Vln. *p*

Cl. *p*

Vc. *p*

non rit.

198

p

Alla marcia funebre

Violin

Clarinet in B $\flat$

Cello

Piano

Vln.

Cl.

Vc.

7

13

p

p

p

p

legato

p

8vb-----

8vb-----

8vb-----

Detailed description: This is a page from a musical score for a piece titled 'II. Tamas' with a tempo of 44 beats per minute. The section is 'Alla marcia funebre'. The page contains measures 1 through 13. The instrumentation includes Violin, Clarinet in B-flat, Cello, Piano, Violoncello (Vln.), Clarinet (Cl.), and Viola (Vc.). The score is written in common time (4/4) for measures 1-6 and 2/4 for measures 7-13. The key signature has one flat (B-flat major or D minor). The score features various musical notations including dynamics (piano, p), articulation (accents, slurs), and performance instructions like 'legato'. There are also octave markings (8vb) and repeat signs. The page number 15 is in the top right corner.

QFNB Mov. 2

16

Vln.

Cl.

Vc.

8^{va}

mp *mf* *p* *mf*

20

Vln.

Cl.

Vc.

8^{va}

ff *f* *ff* *f* *ff* *legato*

22

Vln.

Cl.

Vc.

8^{va}

mf *pp* *mf* *pp*

25

Vln.

Cl.

Vc.

mp

mp

pizz.

mp

25

28

Vln.

Cl.

Vc.

p

pp

p

p

pp

p

p

pp

arco

28

38

Vln.

Cl.

Vc.

38

47

Vln.

Cl.

Vc.

mp

mp

Reo.

Reo.

51

Vln.

Cl.

Vc.

mp

mp

Reo.

Reo.

Reo.

Reo.

*

Reo.

54

Vln.

Cl.

Vc.

pp

pp

dolce

*

58

Vln.

Cl.

Vc.

pp

pp

62

Vln.

Cl.

Vc.

p

p

mp

pp

66

Vln.

Cl.

Vc.

mp

mp

mp

pp

pp

pp

pp

QFNB Mov. 2

20

70

Vln.

Cl.

Vc.

p

tenuto

p

70

Ped.

Ped.

Ped.

Ped.

Violin (Vln.) and Viola (Vc.) staves. The Violin part begins at measure 75 with a *pp* dynamic, playing a melodic line with slurs and ties. The Viola part also begins at measure 75 with a *pp* dynamic, playing a supporting line. The score includes dynamic markings *pp* and *mp*, and a key signature change to two flats.

81

Vln.

cresc. ----- *mf*

The musical score for the Violin part, measures 81-90, is written on a single staff. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody consists of eighth and sixteenth notes, often beamed together. A crescendo hairpin starts at measure 81 and extends through measure 88, where the dynamic changes to mezzo-forte (mf). The notation includes various accidentals (sharps, flats, naturals) and phrasing slurs. The staff ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

90

Vln.

Cl.

mf *f* *ff*

mf *f* *ff*

mf *f* *ff*

Reo.

94

Vln.

Cl.

f *mf* *mp* *p*

f *mf* *mp* *p*

f *mf* *mp* *p*

Reo.

97

Vln.

Cl.

Vc.

pp *pp* *pp*

pp

rit.

pp

Reo.

*

111. Satvas

♩ = 105
Logarythmus

Preambling ♩ = 70

The image displays a musical score for a piece titled "Preambling" (marked with a tempo of 70) and a section titled "Logarithmus". The score is written for Violin, Clarinet in B $\flat$, Cello, and Piano. The key signature is one flat (B $\flat$), and the time signature is 4/4. The score is divided into two systems. The first system covers measures 1 through 5, and the second system covers measures 6 through 14. The Violin part begins with a rest in measure 1, followed by a series of eighth and sixteenth notes. The Clarinet in B $\flat$ part begins with a rest in measure 1, followed by a series of eighth and sixteenth notes. The Cello part begins with a rest in measure 1, followed by a series of eighth and sixteenth notes. The Piano part begins with a rest in measure 1, followed by a series of eighth and sixteenth notes. The score includes dynamic markings such as *ff* (fortissimo), *p* (piano), *mf* (mezzo-forte), and *mp* (mezzo-piano). The score also includes a section titled "Logarithmus" which begins in measure 6. The score is written in a standard musical notation style with a key signature of one flat and a time signature of 4/4.

21

Vln. *mp* *ff* *marcato*

Cl. *p* *mp* *ff* *marcato*

Vc. *p* *ff* *marcato*

21

p *mp*

27

Vln. *marcato*

Cl. *ff*

Vc. *ff*

27

marcato *ff*

32

Vln. *pp*

Cl. *pp*

Vc. *pp*

32

pp

8vb -

QFNB Mov. 3

24

38

Vln. *p* *mp*

Cl. *p* *mp*

Vc. *p* *mp*

38

mp

Detailed description: This system contains measures 38 through 43. The Violin (Vln.) part begins at measure 38 with a piano (*p*) dynamic, playing eighth notes. The Clarinet (Cl.) part also starts at measure 38 with a piano (*p*) dynamic, playing eighth notes. The Viola (Vc.) part starts at measure 38 with a piano (*p*) dynamic, playing eighth notes. The Piano part begins at measure 38 with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic, playing a melody with a second ending bracket. The dynamics for Vln., Cl., and Vc. change to mezzo-piano (*mp*) at measure 40.

44

Vln. *mf* *f*

Cl. *mf* *f*

Vc. *mf* *f*

44

mp *mf* *f*

Detailed description: This system contains measures 44 through 49. The Violin (Vln.) part begins at measure 44 with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic, playing a melody with a second ending bracket. The Clarinet (Cl.) part also starts at measure 44 with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic, playing a melody with a second ending bracket. The Viola (Vc.) part starts at measure 44 with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic, playing a melody with a second ending bracket. The Piano part begins at measure 44 with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic, playing a melody with a second ending bracket. The dynamics for Vln., Cl., and Vc. change to forte (*f*) at measure 47.

50

Vln. *ff*

Cl. *ff*

Vc. *ff*

50

ff *tenuto*

tenuto

Detailed description: This system contains measures 50 through 55. The Violin (Vln.) part begins at measure 50 with a fortissimo (*ff*) dynamic, playing a melody with a tenuto marking. The Clarinet (Cl.) part also starts at measure 50 with a fortissimo (*ff*) dynamic, playing a melody with a tenuto marking. The Viola (Vc.) part starts at measure 50 with a fortissimo (*ff*) dynamic, playing a melody with a tenuto marking. The Piano part begins at measure 50 with a fortissimo (*ff*) dynamic, playing a melody with a tenuto marking. The dynamics for Vln., Cl., and Vc. change to fortissimo (*ff*) at measure 52.

56

Vln.

Cl.

Vc.

ff

56

*

63

Vln.

Cl.

Vc.

p

mf

legato

63

8^{va}

p *cresc.* *mf*

68

Vln.

Cl.

Vc.

68 (8^{va})

73

Vln.

Cl.

Vc.

mf

mf

mf

79

Vln.

Cl.

Vc.

mf

85

Vln.

Cl.

Vc.

p

p

p

p

89

Vln.

Cl.

Vc.

f *ff*

89

ff

94

Vln.

Cl.

Vc.

94

8vb-----

8vb-----

99

Vln.

Cl.

Vc.

99

8vb-----

8vb-----

Vln.

105

Cl.

Vc.

Vln.

110

Cl.

Vc.

Vln.

113

Cl.

Vc.

117

Vln. *(p)* *pp*

Cl. *(p)* *pp*

Vc. *(p)* *pp*

117 *tenuto* *(p)* *pp*

200 *

125

Vln. *mp* *mf*

Cl. *mp* *mf*

Vc.

125

133

Vln. *mf* *f* *ff* *gliss.* *gliss.* *>* *ff*

Cl. *f* *ff* *gliss.* *gliss.* *>*

Vc.

133

140

Vln.

Cl.

Vc.

ff

f

ff

Reo.

Reo.

Reo.

146

Vln.

Cl.

Vc.

146

Reo.

Reo.

Reo.

Reo.

Reo.

Reo.

Reo.

Reo.

Reo.

*

151

Vln.

Cl.

Vc.

ff

151

155

Vln.

Cl.

Vc.

ff

2

2

2

2

159

Vln.

Cl.

Vc.

ff

dolce

mp

ff

dolce

mp

ff

159

165

Vln.

Cl.

Vc.

mf

mp

pizz.

2

2

2

2

p

165

mp

172

Vln.

Cl.

Vc.

mf

ff

ff

8vb

Ped.

*

178

Vln.

Cl.

Vc.

ff

mp

mp

mp

178

mp

185

Vln.

Cl.

Vc.

mp

185

190

Vln.

Cl.

Vc.

mp

f

p

mf

f

194

Vln.

Cl.

Vc.

ff

ff

ff

ff

199

Vln.

Cl.

Vc.

ff

ff

206

Vln.

Cl.

Vc.

p

pp

214

Vln.

Cl.

Vc.

dolce

pp

221

Vln.

Cl.

Vc.

pp

rit.

221

$\text{♩} = 115$
Marcia prestidigitalis

Violin

Clarinet in B_b

Cello

Piano

pp *ff*

dolce *pp*

5

Vln.

Cl.

Vc.

fff *ff* *8va*

8

(8va)

Reo. *

QFNB Mov. 4

36

11

Vln.

Cl.

Vc.

ff

14

Vln.

Cl.

Vc.

14

17

Vln.

Cl.

Vc.

17

20

Vln.

Cl.

Vc.

ff *pp*

8^{vb}

23

Vln.

Cl.

Vc.

p *mf*

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

(8^{vb})

27

Vln.

Cl.

Vc.

ff

8^{va}

QFNB Mov. 4

38

30

Vln.

Cl.

Vc.

33

Vln.

Cl.

Vc.

tenuto

ff

And.

36

Vln.

Cl.

Vc.

ff

40

Vln.

Cl.

Vc.

40

43

Vln.

Cl.

Vc.

pp

pp

pp

43

47

Vln.

Cl.

Vc.

p

p

p

p

47

QFNB Mov. 4

40

50

Vln.

Cl.

Vc.

mp

50

53

Vln.

Cl.

Vc.

mf

f

53

55

Vln.

Cl.

Vc.

ff

55

ff

8vb

58

Vln.

Cl.

Vc.

(8vb)

61

Vln.

Cl.

Vc.

61

64

Vln.

Cl.

Vc.

64

pizz.

mf

pp

8vb

QFNB Mov. 4

42

68

Vln.

Cl.

Vc.

arco

pp

68

pp

71

Vln.

Cl.

Vc.

pp

71 *legato*

74

Vln.

Cl.

Vc.

74

8va

77

Vln.

Cl.

Vc.

(8^{va})

79

Vln.

Cl.

Vc.

(8^{va})

pp *ff*

ff *pp*

82

Vln.

Cl.

Vc.

82

QFNB Mov. 4

44

[illegible][illegible]

90

Vln. *f* *ff*

Cl. *f* *ff*

Vc. *ff*

90

f *ff*

93

Vln.

Cl.

Vc.

93

8vb

97

Vln. *pp*

Cl. *pp*

Vc. *pp*

97

dolce *pp*

QFNB Mov. 4

46

102

Vln.

Cl.

Vc.

102

105

Vln.

Cl.

Vc.

ff

ff

ff

105

108

Vln.

Cl.

Vc.

ff

108

110

Vln.

Cl.

Vc.

8^{va}

112

Vln.

Cl.

Vc.

8^{va}

114

Vln.

Cl.

Vc.

QFNB Mov. 4

48

116

Vln.

Cl.

Vc.

116

8va.

8va.

118

Vln.

Cl.

Vc.

118

8va.

8va.

ff

*

121

Vln.

Cl.

Vc.

121

ff

p

ff

p

ff

p

ff *f* *mf* *mp* *pp* *mp* *pp* *mp* *pp* *mf*

8va-

124

Vln. *mf* *ff*

Cl. *mf* *ff*

Vc. *mf* *ff*

124 *mf mp mf mp mf ff*

127

Vln. *mf* *ff*

Cl. *mf* *ff*

Vc. *mf* *ff*

127 *mf mp mf mp mf ff*

129

Vln. *mf* *ff*

Cl. *mf* *ff*

Vc. *mf* *ff*

129 *mf mp mf mp mf ff*

QFNB Mov. 4

50

Vln. Cl. Vc.

131

fff

Vln. Cl. Vc.

134

Vln. Cl. Vc.

136