

Cello Concerto

**Arranged for
Cello and Piano**



Bill Robinson

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October 22, 2015–January 25, 2016
Cello and Piano version March 27–April 8, 2022
Duration: about 27 minutes

for Bonnie Thron and Grant Llewellyn

I have had the pleasure of making music with Principal Cellist of the NC Symphony Bonnie Thron and her husband clarinetist Fred Jacobowitz since 2008. She spoke with Grant Llewellyn, music director of the orchestra, in April 2015 about writing something for her as soloist. Grant then asked me to come up with a piece. After finishing other projects, I got to work on this concerto, after asking Grant for Welsh themes; one of his suggestions is the basis for the first movement.

I. Over the Stone (Tros y Garreg)

Adagio; Cyflym; Adagio; Cyflym; Cymedrol; Ychydig yn gyflymach [9']

II. Heart Song *Largo* [8']

III. Contradanza *Fidelio* [2']

IV. Schlimmbesserung *Vivace* [7:20]

The theme for the first movement is the traditional Welsh song “Tros y Garreg”, or “Over the Stone”. The song is attributed to Rhys Bodychen, who fought at the Battle of Bosworth Field on the side of the Tudors against Richard III in 1485. The lyrics reflect on those who have fallen in battle. This melody has been altered from the original by George Thompson, who published Welsh airs in 1809, 1811, and 1817. I prefer his version for this purpose to the original. Note that the end of the melody resembles the theme from the last movement of J. S. Bach’s *Brandenburg Concerto No. 5*, which factors into my treatment. Also, the traditional harp music of Wales led me to have an important harp part throughout this concerto. After having written music influenced by Russia, France, Germany, Austria, Moravia, Hungary, Romania, Spain, Cuba, India, and Mississippi, it was about time for me to try Wales—somewhere closer to my actual ancestry (English, Dutch, Scotch-Irish, Manx).

I made a point of using particularly incomprehensible, unspellable, and unpronounceable Welsh words for tempo markings in the first movement. *Cyflym* means “fast”; *Cymedrol* means “moderate”; *Ychydig yn gyflymach* means “a little faster.”

The very short third movement started life back about 1990 as the second movement of my *Fourth Sonata for Solo Violin*. (There is a total of ten such sonatas.) Originally I thought it was a tango, as I am easily bored with details in music theory and sometimes don’t look things up. In fact it is a contradanza, with the dance form originating in Havana. Hence the tempo marking “Fidelio”. The solo cello part can be performed by itself in a pinch.

The fourth movement is titled *Schlimmbesserung*, which is German for “an effort to make things better that ends up making things worse”.

In addition to this arrangement for cello and piano, there is a chamber version for cello and two pianos.

Cover art: frontispiece from *Musical and poetical relics of the Welsh bards* by Edward Jones, 1784.

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Cello Concerto

I. Over the Stone (Tros y Garreg)

[9']

Bill Robinson

Theme
Adagio (♩.=52)

Cello

Theme
Adagio (♩.=52)

Piano

8

8

15

15

22

22

27

27

p *mp* *mf*

p *mp* *mf*

f *mp*

f *mp* *p* *pp*

f *mp* *p* *pp*

(♩.=110)
Cyflym

(♩.=110)
Cyflym

ff

ff

Cello Concerto Mov. 1

3

The image displays a musical score for the song "The Rose Tree". It consists of two systems of staves. The first system includes a single bass staff with a melodic line and a key signature of one flat. The second system is a grand staff with a treble and bass staff. The treble staff contains a complex melodic line with many beamed eighth and sixteenth notes, while the bass staff provides a simple harmonic accompaniment with sustained notes. The score is divided into three measures, each with a different time signature: 2/4, 3/4, and 12/8. The key signature changes from one flat to two flats in the third measure. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

The image displays a musical score for the song "The Rose Tree". It consists of two systems of staves. The first system includes a vocal line (soprano) and a piano accompaniment (treble and bass clefs). The vocal line begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 3/4 time signature. The piano accompaniment starts with a bass clef. The second system continues the vocal and piano parts. The piano part features a prominent left-hand bass line and a right-hand accompaniment. The score is marked with a forte dynamic (*ff*) and includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and bar lines.

[illegible]

The musical score for 'The Rose Tree' is presented in three systems. The first system (measures 1-4) features a vocal melody in treble clef with a key signature of one flat and a 12/8 time signature. The second system (measures 5-8) continues the vocal melody and introduces a piano accompaniment in the bass clef. The third system (measures 9-12) shows the vocal melody concluding with a final chord, while the piano accompaniment continues with a rhythmic pattern. The score is written for a single voice and piano.

48 Adagio (♩ = 52)

48 ff p cresc. mf p pp

53 p dolce cresc. (mf)

56 f mf

59 f mf p pp p

63 mp mf

67 *mp* *p* *rit.* *pp*

71 (♩ = 110) *Cyflym* *mp* *cresc.*

78 *(mf)* *f* *ff*

84

91 95 *8va* *8va*

97

97

102

102

108

108

112

112

115

115

123

123

rit.

rit.

mp *cresc.* *(mf)* *f* *dim.*

p *pp*

Rea *

Cello Concerto Mov. 1

131 *almost a tempo* *p* *rit.* 7

132 *almost a tempo* *rit.* *p*

138 *(♩ = 86)* *Cymedrol* *(♩ = 86)* *Cymedrol*

145 *f* *ff* *mp* *mf* *f* *ff*

152 *dim.* *(mf)* *(mp)* *p*

159 *(tutti)* *163 (♩ = ♩)* *ff* *163 (♩ = ♩)* *ff*

Red. *

[illegible]

203 *accel.* *mp* Ychydig yn gyflymach (♩. = 50)

210

218 *mp* *p* *cresc. p. a p.* (mp) (♩. = ♩.)

222

226 *(mf)* *f*

233

233

238

p | *ff*

238

p *ff*

243

243

248

252

248

252

8va

ff *mf* *mf*

254

mf *cresc.* *f*

254

mf *cresc.* *f*

259

ff

259

ff

264

264

269

271

(tutti)

274

274

278

(solo)

ff

283

p *pp*

283

II. Heart Song

[8']

Cello
 Piano
 Largo ♩ = 50
 legato
 p
 pp
 f
 mf
 mp
 pp

19

pp *mf*

19

pp *mp*

Reo. *

22

f *mf*

Reo. *

23

pp *p*

pp *p*

27

27

30

30

The musical score is for the second movement of a Cello Concerto, page 13. It is written for cello and piano. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The score is divided into systems. The first system (measures 19-21) shows the cello entering with a melodic line and the piano providing harmonic support. The second system (measures 22-24) continues the melodic development in the cello. The third system (measures 25-26) features a change in texture with more active piano accompaniment. The fourth system (measures 27-29) includes a long, sustained note in the cello and complex triplet patterns in the piano. The fifth system (measures 30-32) concludes the page with further melodic and harmonic development. Dynamics range from pianissimo (pp) to fortissimo (f). Performance markings include 'Reo.' and an asterisk (*).

33

p

33

p

36

mp

36

mp

39

mf

39

mf

42

ff

42

ff

44

8va

44

33

36

39

42

44

48

8va

mp

ff

mp

Leg.

Leg.

52

(♩=♩)

cresc.

mf

(♩=♩)

cresc.

mf

✱

The musical score for 'The Rose Tree' is presented in two systems. The first system consists of a single staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is written in a simple, folk-like style with a range of approximately two octaves. The second system is a piano arrangement for a grand piano, featuring a treble and bass clef. The right hand plays a melody with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a time signature of 4/4. The left hand provides a harmonic accompaniment with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a time signature of 4/4. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings like 'p' (piano) and 'f' (forte). The piece concludes with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

The image displays a musical score for the song "The Rose Tree". It consists of two systems of staves. The first system features a single bass staff with a melody line and a piano accompaniment. The second system includes a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) for the piano accompaniment and a vocal line in the treble clef. The score is written in 4/4 time and includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings like *pp* and *p*. The lyrics "The Rose Tree" are written below the vocal line in the second system.

The image displays a musical score for the song "The Rose Tree". It consists of three staves: a vocal line at the top and a piano accompaniment at the bottom. The vocal line is written in a soprano clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. The piano accompaniment is written in a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) with the same key signature and time signature. The score is divided into two systems. The first system starts at measure 63 and ends at measure 64. The second system starts at measure 65 and ends at measure 66. The tempo markings "rit." (ritardando) and "a tempo" are placed above the vocal line. The dynamic marking "mf" (mezzo-forte) is placed below the piano accompaniment. The lyrics "The Rose Tree" are written below the vocal line. The piano accompaniment features a rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some chords and single notes. The vocal line features a melody with some grace notes and a final cadence.

66

f *p*

66

f *p* *mp*

69

mp

69

mp

71

71

73

73

76

mf *rit.* *a tempo* *mp*

76

mf *dim.* *rit.* *a tempo* *mp*

79 80

ff

79 80

ff

82 *ff*

82 *ff*

85 *p*

85 *p*

89 90 *p* *pp*

89 90 *p* *pp* *8va*

93 *rit.* *a tempo*

93 *rit.* *8va* *a tempo*

Tea *Tea* *

Fidelio ♩ = 66

Cello

Piano

mp *f*

4 *ff* *mp* *8va-7*

7 *f* *ff* *non stacc.* *ff*

11 *ff* *p* *Reo.* *p* *Reo.*

14 *Reo.* *Reo.* *Reo.* *Reo.* *

17 *mp* 20 *mp*

17 *mp*

22 *f* *f*

27 *ff* 29 *mp* *f* *ff* *non stacc.*

27 *ff* *mp* *f* *ff* *8va*

33 *rit.* *ff* *p* 3 *rit.* *ff* *p* *Leo* *Leo* *Leo*

38 *pp* *8va* *pp* *Leo* *Leo* *Leo* *Leo* *

Vivace (♩ = 104)

Cello

Vivace (♩ = 104)

Piano

5

10

14

16

18

f

f

And.

21 *f dim.* *p* 25

21 *f* *mf* *p* 25

27

27

34 35 *f* 35 *f*

38 38

41 *ff* 41

[illegible]

48

48

ff

51

ff *f* *f dim.*

51

f *f dim.*

Rea *

55

p

55

p

8va

pp

*

61 62

f *ff*

61 62

f *ff*

8^{va}

65

65

ff

p

70

73

73

76

cresc.

76

cresc.

81

83

f

ff

81

(mf)

f

ff

ff

84

84

86

86

89

89

91

91

93

95

95

93

93

97

97

97

101

ff *dim.* *(mf)* *(mp)* *p*

106

p

108

108

S.P.

113

118

pp

pp

S.P.

S.P.

120

8va-

S.P.

126

cresc.

ff

128

ff

129

129

131

131

134

134

137

137

140

140

146

146

ff

f

mp

p

8va

f

mp

p

6/8

6/8

148 *p*

148

154 $(\text{♩}=\text{♩})$

154 $(\text{♩}=\text{♩})$

162 *pp* *p* *cresc.* *(mf)* *f*

163 *cresc.* *(mf)* *f*

166 *ff*

166 *ff*

170 *ff* *dim.* *(mf)* *(mp)* *pp* *p*

175

175

176

p *ff*

176

180

182

183

fff

182

183

fff

185

185

8va

189

fff *p* *pizz.*

189

p