

Cello Concerto

**Chamber Edition
for Cello and Two Pianos**



Bill Robinson

Cello Concerto

Chamber Version for Cello and Two Pianos

October 22, 2015–January 25, 2016
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)	<i>Adagio; Cyflym; Adagio; Cyflym; Cymedrol; Ychydig yn gyflymach</i>	[9']
II. Heart Song	<i>Largo</i>	[8']
III. Contradanza	<i>Fidelio</i>	[2']
IV. Schlimmbesserung	<i>Vivace</i>	[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”.

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

Publisher Parrish Press Garner NC 2nd Edition April 2022

billrobinsonmusic.com

Cello Concerto

I. Over the Stone (Tros y Garreg) [9']

Bill Robinson

Theme
Adagio (♩.= 52)

Cello

Piano 1

Piano 2

10

19

26

Cyflym

Cyflym

© 2016

30

ff

34

p

pp

ff

38

ff

43

ff

48 Adagio (♩.=52)

p dolce

ff *mf* *p* *pp* *p dolce*

dolce *mf* *p* *pp* *p*

54

cresc. *(mf)* *f*

cresc. *(mf)* *f*

cresc. *(mf)* *f*

58

mf *f* *mf* *p* *pp* *p*

mf *f* *mf* *p* *pp* *p*

mf *f* *p*

62

63

mp *mf*

mp *mf*

mp

67 *mp* *p* *pp* *rit.* (♩.=110) Cyflym

67 *mp* *p* *mp* (♩.=110) Cyflym

67 *mp* *p*



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

73 *cresc.* (*mf*) (*f*)

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



81 *ff*

81 *ff*

ff



89 95 *8va*

89 *8va*

89 *8va*

96

102

110

112

119

rit.

6

132

Cello Concerto Mov. 1

129

p

almost a tempo

rit.

129

almost a tempo

rit.

p

138

Cymedrol

Cymedrol

mp

146

f

ff

dim.

(mf)

146

mf

f

ff

dim.

(mf)

154

(mp)

p

154

(mp)

p

p

Rea

Rea

163 (tutti) (♩=♩)

ff

163 *ff*

172 (solo) 180

ff *p*

182 *mp* *mf*

182 *mp* *mf*

191 196

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

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

201 *mp*



210

210



222 (♩. = ♩.) *p* *cresc. p. a p.* (*mp*) (*mf*)

220 (*p*)

220 *p* *cresc. p. a p.* (*mp*) (*mf*)



229 *f*

229 *f*

229 *f*

236

p | *ff*

236

p *ff*

p *ff*

242

243

242

248

252

mf

mf

8va

ff *mf* *mf*

256

cresc. *f* *ff*

256

cresc. *f* *ff*

cresc. *f* *ff*

262

262

269

271

(tutti)

276

(solo)

276

ff

ff

280

ff *p* *pp*

280

The musical score is presented in a standard format with a cello staff and a piano grand staff. The cello staff uses a bass clef and a 12/8 time signature. The piano grand staff consists of two staves, treble and bass, with a brace between them. The score is divided into measures, with measure numbers 262, 269, 271, 276, and 280 indicated. The tempo is marked 'tutti' and 'solo'. The piano part includes dynamic markings such as *ff* (fortissimo) and *pp* (pianissimo). The score is written in a key signature of one flat (B-flat major or D minor). The notation includes various musical symbols such as notes, rests, beams, and slurs.

II. Heart Song

[8']

Largo ♩ = 50

Cello

Piano 1

Piano 2

pp *legato* *p*

f *mp* *mf*

f *mp* *pp* *p* *mf* *pp*

11 16 19

21 *mf* *f*

21 *mp* *mf*

21 *mp* *mf*

23 *pp* *p*

23 *pp* *p*

23 *pp* *p*

28 30

28 30

31 *p*

31 *p*

31 *p*

35

p *mp*

35

mp

mp

38

39

mf

38

mf

39

mf

42

ff

42

ff

ff

46

46

ff

ff

ff

50 52
(♩=♩)

mp *cresc.* *mf*

50 *mp* *cresc.* *mf*

56 *mp* *cresc.* *mf*

56 *8va* *Reo.* *Reo.* *Reo.* *Reo.* *

60 61
pp *legato* *p*

60 *pp* *p* *8va*

64 *rit.* *a tempo* *mf* *f*

64 *rit.* *a tempo* *mf* *f* *3* *3* *3*

8va *mf* *f* *3* *3* *3* *mp*

The image displays a musical score for the song "The Rose Tree". It is a three-part setting for voice and piano. The score is written in 2/4 time and features a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The music is divided into three systems, each containing a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The first system begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The second system begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The third system begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The piano accompaniment includes various musical notations such as triplets, sixteenth notes, and dynamic markings like *p* (piano) and *mp* (mezzo-piano). The lyrics "The Rose Tree" are written below the vocal line in the first system.

The musical score for 'The Rose Tree' is presented in three systems. The first system (measures 1-4) features a vocal melody in the treble clef and a piano accompaniment in the bass clef. The second system (measures 5-8) continues the vocal melody and piano accompaniment. The third system (measures 9-12) concludes the piece with a final vocal melody and piano accompaniment. The score includes various musical notations such as treble and bass clefs, a 4/4 time signature, and triplets. The lyrics 'The Rose Tree' are written below the vocal melody.

The image displays a musical score for the song "The Rose Tree". It consists of three systems of staves. The first system includes a vocal line (soprano) and a piano accompaniment (treble and bass clefs). The second system continues the vocal and piano parts. The third system shows the vocal line and piano accompaniment, with the piano part featuring a prominent bass line. The score is written in 2/4 time and includes dynamic markings such as *mf* (mezzo-forte) and *8va* (octave). The lyrics "The Rose Tree" are written below the vocal line.

The image displays a musical score for the song "The Rose Tree". It consists of three systems of staves. The first system includes a bass line (labeled 77) and a piano accompaniment (labeled 77). The second system includes a vocal line (labeled 77) and a piano accompaniment (labeled 77). The third system includes a vocal line (labeled 80) and a piano accompaniment (labeled 80). The score is written in 2/4 time and features a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The tempo markings are "rit." (ritardando) and "a tempo". The dynamics markings are "mp" (mezzo-piano) and "ff" (fortissimo). The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, beams, and slurs. The lyrics "The Rose Tree" are written below the vocal lines.

85

p

85

p

p

8^{va}

[illegible][illegible]

[2']

Fidelio ♩ = 66

Cello

Piano 1

Piano 2

measures 66-76

measures 7-9

measures 10-12

13 *p*

13 *Rea* *

13 *Rea* *

15 *p*

15 *Rea* *

15 *Rea* *

15 *Rea* *

18 *mp*

18 *Rea* *

18 *Rea* *

20

23 *f*

23 *mp*

23 *f*

27 29

ff *mp* *f* *ff* *non stacc.*

ff *mp* *f* *ff*

ff *mp* *mp* *f*

8va

33 rit.

ff *p* *3*

rit. *ff* *p* *3* *

8va

(rit.)

38 (rit.)

pp *3*

pp *pp* *3* *

8va

19 25

f dim. p

19 25

f p

f

f

26

26

p

34 35

f

34 35

f

35

f

39

39

f

43 *ff*

43 *8va*

47

47

48 *ff*

50

51 *ff* *f* *f dim.* *p*

51 *f* *dim.* *p*

51 *f* *dim.* *p*

56

57 *f* *f*

62 *f* *f*

62

63 *ff*

63 *ff*

63 *ff*

8va - - -

68 *p*

73 *p*

73 *p*

76 *cresc.* *f*

76 *mf* *f*

76 *cresc.* *(mf)* *f*

8va - - -

83 *ff*

83 *ff*

83 *ff*

8va - - -

98

ff *dim.* ----- (*mf*) -----

98

8va -----

8va -----

8va -----

8va -----

105 106

(mp) *p*

105 106

p

8va

p

111 118

8va

118

119 *pp*

119 *pp*

pp

8va

126 *cresc.* 128 *ff*

126 *cresc.* 128 *ff*

cresc. *ff*

This image shows a page of a musical score for 'The Swan' by Camille Saint-Saëns, measures 129-146. The score is written for a piano and includes a vocal line. The key signature is one flat (B-flat major or D minor), and the time signature is 4/4. The score is divided into three systems. The first system (measures 129-132) features a vocal line and piano accompaniment. The second system (measures 132-136) continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The third system (measures 136-146) includes a vocal line and piano accompaniment. The piano part features a prominent eighth-note pattern in the right hand. The vocal line is written in a soprano clef. The score includes dynamic markings such as *ff* (fortissimo), *p* (piano), and *mp* (mezzo-piano). The tempo is marked 'Allegretto'. The score is in French, with the title 'Le Cygne' at the top.

147 *p*

155 *pp* *p cresc.* 163

(♩=♩) 163 *p cresc.*

p cresc.

8va - - -

164 *(mf)* *f* *ff*

164 *(mf)* *f* *ff*

8va - - -

168 *ff dim.* *(mf)* *(mp)* *pp*

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

175

p *ff*

175

p *ff*

p *ff*

180

180

ff *8va*

183

183

ff *8va*

188

188

ff *p* *pizz.*

p *p*