

Gayatri Sonata

**for Violoncello
and Piano**

ॐ भूर्भुवः स्वः तत्सवितुर्वरेण्यं भर्गो देवस्य धीमहि
धियो यो नः प्रचोदयात् ॥

**Bill
Robinson**

Gayatri Sonata

for Violoncello and Piano

Composed Dec. 27, 2004—May 11, 2005

Duration: about 20 minutes

The middle movement is based on a setting I wrote of the Gayatri Mantra, a sacred mantra in Hinduism from the *Rig Veda*, for six-string violin and baritone in 2002. I ended up using only the melody from that original composition as the main theme. The words in Sanskrit are:

Om Bhur bhuvah svahah
Tat savitur varenyam
Bhargo Devasya dheemahi
Dheeyo yo nah prachodayaat

Any translation is highly approximate, but it is something like; “Oh Divine Beings of all three worlds, we meditate on the glorious splendor of God. May He himself illumine our minds.”

The tempo marking of the first movement, “IWHWIFATBS”, stands for “It won’t hurt when I fall off this barstool”. Notice that this lyric fits the theme...

This sonata is in memory of my mother, Frances Vanderkooi Robinson Westman, who died in February 2005. She played both the cello and the piano. I also had in mind during the composition two cellists: David Vanderkooi, my uncle, and Jonathan Kramer, of the music department at NCSU. There is also an arrangement for viola.

The premiere performance was by Bonnie Thron, cellist, and Nancy Whelan, pianist, at Duke University in 2010.

The original score and part were in this legal-size format. In 2022, I made a letter-size edition for score and part, as well as an edition of the cello part specifically for electronic music readers, with the part enlarged and including reduced piano staves.

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Gayatri Sonata

First Movement

[6']

Bill Robinson

IWHWIFOTBS ♩ = 76

Cello

Piano

p

mp

mf

f

mf

mp

mf

f

mf

cresc. p. a p.

(mp)

(mf)

mp

p

mp

p cresc. p. a p.

(mp)

(mf)

26

f *ff*

26

f *ff*

31

f *ff*

31

f *ff*

37

ff *mp* *f*

37

mf *f*

42

ff

42

ff

47

ff *dim.*

47

ff *dim.*

Rea. Rea. Rea. Sub- Rea. Rea. *

51 *p* *mp*

51 *p* *mp*

57 *cresc.* *(mf)*

57 *cresc.* *(mf)*

61 *ff*

61 *f* *ff*

65 *ff*

65 *ff*

71 *ff* | *p*

71 *ff* | *p*

75

75

81

81

85

85

90

90

94

94

Reo. Reo. Reo. *

8vb

97

97

99

ff pp

f mp dolce

102

dolce

mp

106

106

112

mf

112

mf

117

122

123

126

127

131

129

131

132

135

135

135

8vb - - -

138

ff dim.

138

ff dim.

142

p

142

p

147

147

152

152

156

156

Ped.

161

161

f

f

f

8vb

171

171

ff

f

ff

f

180

180

mf

mf

Ped.

Ped.

186

186

Ped.

Ped.

Ped.

Ped.

Ped.

Ped.

192

Ped. *Ped.* *Ped.* *Ped.* *Ped.* *Ped.*

197

mp *mp* *Ped.* *Ped.* *Ped.* *Ped.* *

202

cresc. *(mf)* *f* *f* *f* *8vb*

♩ = 70

Poco meno mosso

207

ff *ff* *ff* *ff* *8vb*

212

ff *ff* *ff* *ff* *pp* *pp*

With Devotion ♩ = 80

[illegible]

20

mp

20

mp

23

ff

23

ff

8vb

26

dim.

26

dim.

28

(mf)

mp

28

legato

(mf)

mp

dolce

30

30

33

mf *f*

35

ff *p*

37

mp

40

rubato *a tempo* *mp* *rubato*

43

a tempo *mf cresc.* *f* *mf cresc.*

45 *ff* *rubato* *a tempo* *rubato*

8^{va}

47 *ff* *ff* *8^{vb}*

51 *a tempo* *p* *pp* *dolce* *p* *pp* *(8^{vb})*

54 *p* *3* *p* *Teo* ***

57

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14

59 *ff* *8va* *8vb* *Reo.*

60 *ff* *mp* *p* *8va* *8vb* *Reo.*

63 *dolce*

66 *fff* *8vb* *Reo.*

69 *rit.* *fff* *pp* *attacca* *8va* *8vb* *Reo.*

III. Rondo Cappuccino

[7:15]

15

$\bullet = 80$

Git Them Toes To Tappin'

Cello

Piano

ff

ff

4

4

7

7

10

10

13

13

ff

16

19

22

legato

p *cresc. p. a p.*

22

8^{va}

p *cresc. p. a p.*

25

27

(mp)

27

(mp)

Leg. *

29

29

(mf)

mf

Rea

*

Rea

Detailed description: This system contains measures 29 and 30. The bass staff (top) has a melodic line with slurs and a dynamic marking of *(mf)* at measure 30. The piano staff (bottom) has a complex texture with slurs, a dynamic marking of *(mf)* at measure 30, and a double bar line at measure 30. There are markings 'Rea' under the first and last measures, and an asterisk '*' under measure 30.

31

31

f

ff

f

ff

Rea

Rea

*

Detailed description: This system contains measures 31 and 32. The bass staff (top) has a melodic line with slurs and dynamic markings of *f* and *ff*. The piano staff (bottom) has a complex texture with slurs, a dynamic marking of *f* at measure 31, and a dynamic marking of *ff* at measure 32. There are markings 'Rea' under the first and second measures, and an asterisk '*' under measure 32.

33

33

b2

Detailed description: This system contains measures 33 and 34. The bass staff (top) has a melodic line with slurs. The piano staff (bottom) has a complex texture with slurs and a marking 'b2' under measure 34.

35

35

Detailed description: This system contains measures 35 and 36. The bass staff (top) has a melodic line with slurs. The piano staff (bottom) has a complex texture with slurs.

37

37

Detailed description: This system contains measures 37 and 38. The bass staff (top) has a melodic line with slurs and accents. The piano staff (bottom) has a complex texture with slurs and accents.

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18

39

41

41

43

43

45

45

49

49

52

52

55

55

58

58

61

61

64

64

69 *ff*

69 *ff*

72 *ff* *8vb*

72 *ff* *8vb*

76 *f* *8va* *8vb*

76 *f* *8va* *8vb*

80 *legato* *mp* *mp legato*

80 *legato* *mp* *mp legato*

84

88

f *ff*

f *ff*

Ped.

91

rubato

ff *p*

8va *8va*

95

rit. *a tempo*

mp *mp*

100

mp

104

mp

108

Measures 108-110. The score is in 4/4 time. The right hand (RH) plays a melody with eighth and sixteenth notes, often beamed together. The left hand (LH) plays a steady eighth-note accompaniment. Measure 108 starts with a treble clef. Measure 110 ends with a repeat sign. Dynamics include *pp* (pianissimo) in measures 109 and 110.

111

Measures 111-114. The RH continues the melodic line. The LH accompaniment changes in measure 111. Measure 112 has a treble clef. Measure 114 ends with a repeat sign. Dynamics include *pp* in measures 111 and 112, and a *** (crescendo) in measure 114.

115

Measures 115-118. The RH melody continues. The LH accompaniment features chords in measures 116 and 117. Measure 115 has a treble clef. Measure 118 ends with a repeat sign. Dynamics include *mp* (mezzo-piano) and *ff* (fortissimo) in measure 115, and *ff* in measure 116.

119

Measures 119-121. The RH melody continues. The LH accompaniment features chords in measures 119 and 120. Measure 119 has a treble clef. Measure 121 ends with a repeat sign. Dynamics include *mp* in measure 119, and *dolce* (dolce) in measure 120.

122

Measures 122-124. The RH melody continues. The LH accompaniment features chords in measures 122 and 123. Measure 122 has a treble clef. Measure 124 ends with a repeat sign. Dynamics include *pp* in measure 122, and *dolce* in measure 123.

125

125

*

128

128

131

131

mp

134

134

f *ff*

137

137

sfz

140

Musical score system 1, measures 140-142. The system includes a single bass staff and a grand staff (treble and bass staves). The bass staff contains a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes. The grand staff features a complex accompaniment with sixteenth-note patterns in the treble and block chords in the bass. Dynamic markings *sfz* are present in measures 141 and 142.

143

Musical score system 2, measures 143-144. The system includes a single bass staff and a grand staff. The bass staff continues the melodic line. The grand staff accompaniment features a mix of sixteenth-note runs and block chords. The key signature changes to one flat in measure 144.

145

Musical score system 3, measures 145-146. The system includes a single bass staff and a grand staff. The bass staff has a melodic line with eighth notes. The grand staff accompaniment consists of sixteenth-note patterns in the treble and block chords in the bass.

147

Musical score system 4, measures 147-148. The system includes a single bass staff and a grand staff. The bass staff contains a melodic line. The grand staff accompaniment features sixteenth-note patterns in the treble and block chords in the bass. Measure 148 includes an 8va marking for the treble staff.

149

Musical score system 5, measures 149-150. The system includes a single bass staff and a grand staff. The bass staff has a melodic line. The grand staff accompaniment features sixteenth-note patterns in the treble and block chords in the bass. Measure 149 includes an 8va marking for the treble staff. Measure 150 includes a *fff* dynamic marking and a *(no rit.)* instruction.