

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, originally for cello and piano, 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 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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Publisher Parrish Press Garner NC Fifth Edition July 2022

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Gayatri Sonata

First Movement

[6']

IWHWIFOTBS $\text{♩} = 76$

Bill Robinson

Cello

Piano

p

4

4

9

mp

mf

mp

mf

15

f

mf

mp

cresc. p. a p.

p

15

f

mf

mp

p

cresc. p. a p.

Gayatri Sonata

2

23 *(mp)*

(mf) *f* *ff*

23 *(mp)* *(mf)* *f* *ff*

29

29

35

ff *mp*

mf

Sub *Reo.* *Reo.* *Reo.* *Reo.* *

35

41

f *ff*

f *ff*

41

46

ff dim.

51

p mp cresc.

58

(mf) ff

63

ff

Gayatri Sonata

4

69

ff | p

ff | p

74

ff | p

80

mp mf

mp mf

85

<f ff

<f ff

91 *ff*

91 *ff*

95

95

98 *ff pp*

98 *f mp dolce*

98 *ff pp*

98 *f mp dolce*

101 *dolce mp*

101

101 *dolce mp*

101

Gayatri Sonata

6

106

106

112

mf

112

*mf*²

118

118

124

mf cresc. *f* *ff*

124

mf cresc. *f* *ff*

128

128

131

131

135

135

139

139

ff dim. ----- p

ff dim. ----- p

8vb -

The musical score is for a piece titled "Gayatri Sonata", page 7. It is written in 6/8 time. The score is divided into four systems, each with a single bass staff and a grand staff (treble and bass). The first system starts at measure 128. The second system starts at measure 131. The third system starts at measure 135. The fourth system starts at measure 139. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, slurs, and dynamic markings. A "8vb -" marking is present in the third system. The fourth system features a crescendo and decrescendo marking: "ff dim. ----- p".

Gayatri Sonata

8

144

149

154

158

f

p

f

f

Leg.

** 8vb----*

167

ff

167

8vb-----

ff

175

f

mf

175

f

mf

184

Ped.

Ped.

Ped.

Ped.

Ped.

Ped.

190

Ped.

Ped.

Ped.

Ped.

Ped.

Ped.

Gayatri Sonata

10

196

mp

cresc.

Leo.

*

202

cresc.

mf

f

Leo.

8vb

♩ = 70

Poco meno mosso

207

ff

8vb

212

ff

pp

17

17

21

mp *ff*

sub

24

24

27

dim. *(mf)* *mp*

legato 6 6 6

dim. *(mf)*

29

mp *dolce*

31

34

mf *f* *ff*

36

p *mp*

39

39

rubato

42

mp a tempo rubato

a tempo

mf cresc.

f

42

mf cresc.

f

45

ff

rubato

a tempo

rubato

45

ff

8va

47

a tempo

ff

p

47

ff

p

dolce

8vb

52

52

pp

p

55

55

3

Ped.

*

57

57

Ped.

59

59

ff

3

Ped.

*

III. Rondo Cappuccino

[7:15]

17

♩ = 80

Git Them Toes To Tappin'

Score for Cello and Piano, measures 1 through 14.

Measures 1-3: Cello and Piano play a rhythmic pattern. The Cello part is marked *ff*. The Piano part is marked *ff*.

Measures 4-6: The Cello part continues with a rhythmic pattern. The Piano part continues with a rhythmic pattern. The Cello part is marked *ff*. The Piano part is marked *ff*.

Measures 7-9: The Cello part continues with a rhythmic pattern. The Piano part continues with a rhythmic pattern. The Cello part is marked *ff*. The Piano part is marked *ff*.

Measures 10-12: The Cello part continues with a rhythmic pattern. The Piano part continues with a rhythmic pattern. The Cello part is marked *ff*. The Piano part is marked *ff*.

Measures 13-14: The Cello part continues with a rhythmic pattern. The Piano part continues with a rhythmic pattern. The Cello part is marked *ff*. The Piano part is marked *ff*.

Rehearsal marks: *Reo.* and *** are present at the end of measures 6, 9, and 14.

13

ff

16

19

22

legato

p *cresc. p. a p.*

8va -

p *cresc. p. a p.*

Gayatri Sonata

19

25

(mp)

25

(mp)

28

(mf)

28

(mf)

31

f

ff

31

f

ff

33

33

The musical score is for the 19th page of the Gayatri Sonata. It consists of four systems of music, each with a piano (P) and a cello/bass (Cello) part. The piano part is written in a treble clef, and the cello part is written in a bass clef. The key signature is one flat (F major or D minor), and the time signature is 4/4. The first system (measures 25-27) features a piano melody with many slurs and ties, and a cello accompaniment of eighth notes. The second system (measures 28-30) continues the piano melody with more slurs and ties, and the cello accompaniment changes to a more complex pattern. The third system (measures 31-32) shows a piano melody with a strong dynamic of *f* and *ff*, and a cello accompaniment of eighth notes. The fourth system (measures 33-34) shows a piano melody with a strong dynamic of *f* and *ff*, and a cello accompaniment of eighth notes. There are also markings for 'Ped.' and '*' throughout the score.

35

37

39

41

43

(8vb)-----

45

ff *pp*

ff *pp*

48

pp *ff*

ff

8vb-----

51

pp

pp

(8vb)-----

54

54

p *cresc. p. a p.*

8^{va}

57

57

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

8^{va}

60

60

(*mf*) *f*

8^{va}

63

63

ff *mp*

8^{va}

This musical score page contains measures 67 through 80 of the Gayatri Sonata. It is written for a piano with a single melodic line in the right hand and a complex accompaniment in the left hand. The key signature has one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4.

Measures 67-70: The right hand begins with a melodic phrase starting on G4, marked with a *p* (piano) dynamic. The left hand features a dense, sustained chordal texture in the lower register, marked with a *ff* (fortissimo) dynamic. A crescendo hairpin connects the *p* and *ff* markings. A small asterisk (*) is placed below the left hand staff at measure 69.

Measures 71-73: The right hand continues with a melodic line, and the left hand maintains its complex accompaniment. The *ff* dynamic is maintained.

Measures 74-76: The right hand has a melodic phrase, and the left hand features a more active accompaniment. The *ff* dynamic is maintained. An *8vb* (octave below) marking is present below the left hand staff at measure 75.

Measures 77-80: The right hand has a melodic phrase, and the left hand features a more active accompaniment. The *f* (forte) dynamic is marked at measure 77. An *8vb* marking is present below the left hand staff at measure 77. The piece concludes with a final chord in the right hand and a sustained chord in the left hand.

80 *legato*
mp

80 *mp* *legato*

84

84

88 *f* *ff*

88 *f* *ff*

91 *rubato*
ff $\rightarrow$ *p*

91 *8va* *8va*

95 *rit.* *a tempo* *mp*

95 96 97 98

99

99 100 101 102

103

103 104 105 106

106

106 107 108 109

109

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

112

*

115

mp ff ff mp ff

118

dolce mp dolce mp

Gayatri Sonata

27

121

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

124

Ped. *

127

Ped.

129

132

mp

132

mp

134

f *ff*

134

f *ff*

137

sfz *sfz*

137

sfz *sfz*

140

sfz *sfz*

140

sfz *sfz*

143

143

145

145

147

147

147 *8^{va}*

149

149

(no rit.)

fff

149 *8^{va}*

fff