

Gayatri Sonata

for Viola and Piano

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

Bill Robinson

Gayatri Sonata

for Viola and Piano

Composed Dec. 27, 2004–May 11, 2005

Arranged from the original cello version July 13, 2007

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.

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

The early editions of the 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 viola part specifically for electronic music readers, with the part enlarged and including reduced piano staves.

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Viola

Gayatri Sonata

First Movement

[6']

Bill Robinson

IWHWIFATBS

♩ = 76

10

10 *mp* *mf* *f*

16 *mf* *mp* *p* *cresc. p. a p.*

22 *(mp)* *(mf)* *f*

28 *ff*

33 *ff* *> mp*

39 *f*

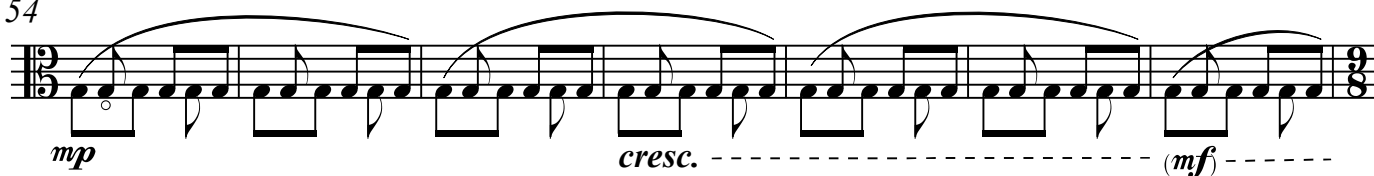
44 *ff*

49 *ff* *dim.* *p*

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2

54



61



65



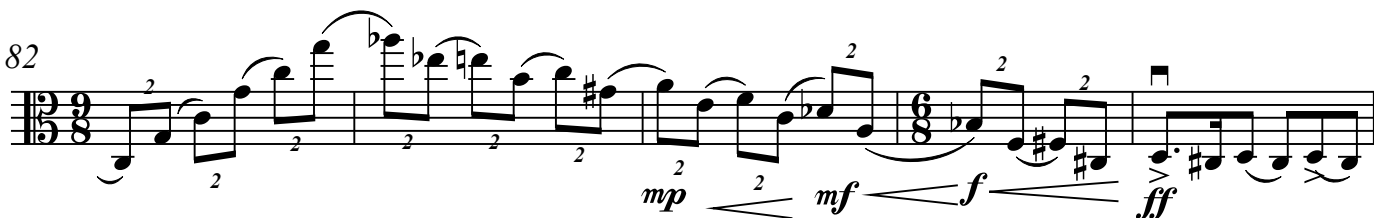
71



76



82



87

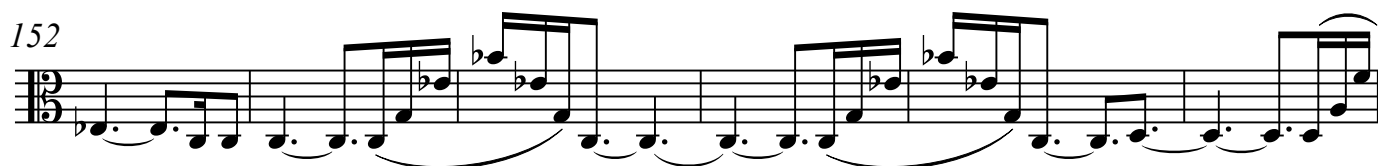
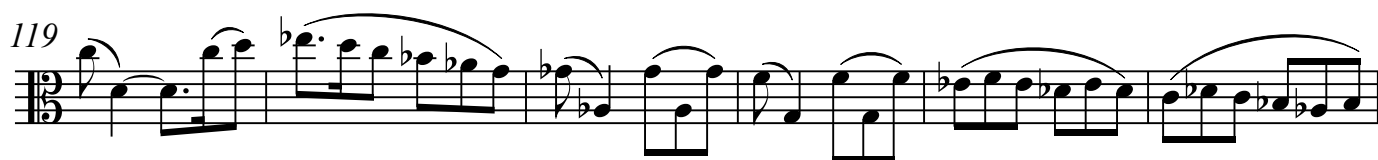


93



98





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4

158

165

f

This staff contains measures 158 to 165. It begins in 3/4 time and changes to 2/4 time at measure 161. The music features a series of eighth notes with slurs, a half note, and a quarter note. A dynamic marking of *f* (forte) is placed below measure 164.

166

173

This staff contains measures 166 to 173. It continues with eighth notes and slurs. A dynamic marking of *f* (forte) is placed below measure 173.

174

181

ff *f*

This staff contains measures 174 to 181. It begins with a wavy line indicating a tremolo. The music features eighth notes and slurs. Dynamic markings of *ff* (fortissimo) and *f* (forte) are placed below measures 174 and 178 respectively.

182

189

mf

This staff contains measures 182 to 189. It begins in 3/4 time and changes to 2/4 time at measure 185. The music features eighth notes and slurs. A dynamic marking of *mf* (mezzo-forte) is placed below measure 184.

190

196

This staff contains measures 190 to 196. It continues with eighth notes and slurs. A dynamic marking of *f* (forte) is placed below measure 196.

197

202

mp *cresc.*

$\bullet = 70$

This staff contains measures 197 to 202. It begins in 3/4 time and changes to 2/4 time at measure 200. The music features eighth notes and slurs. Dynamic markings of *mp* (mezzo-piano) and *cresc.* (crescendo) are placed below measures 197 and 202 respectively. A tempo marking of $\bullet = 70$ is placed below measure 202.

203

207

(mf) *f* *ff*

Poco meno mosso

This staff contains measures 203 to 207. It begins in 3/4 time and changes to 2/4 time at measure 205. The music features eighth notes and slurs. Dynamic markings of *(mf)* (mezzo-forte), *f* (forte), and *ff* (fortissimo) are placed below measures 203, 205, and 207 respectively. A tempo marking of *Poco meno mosso* is placed above measure 207.

208

211

This staff contains measures 208 to 211. It continues with eighth notes and slurs. A dynamic marking of *f* (forte) is placed below measure 211.

212

215

ff *pp*

This staff contains measures 212 to 215. It begins in 3/4 time and changes to 2/4 time at measure 214. The music features eighth notes and slurs. Dynamic markings of *ff* (fortissimo) and *pp* (pianissimo) are placed below measures 212 and 215 respectively.

Second Movement: Gayatri Mantra

[6'40"]

5

Om bhur buvah(a) swah(a) tat savitur varenyam, bhargo devasia dimahi, diho yo nah(a) prachodayat

With Devotion $\text{♩} = 80$

The musical score is written in a single staff with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a time signature of 3/4. It consists of 35 measures. The tempo is marked 'With Devotion' with a quarter note equal to 80 beats. The dynamics range from fortissimo (ff) to pianissimo (p). The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, ties, and articulation marks.

Measures 1-5: *f*, 3

Measures 6-9: *mf*

Measures 10-13: *mp*

Measures 14-17: *mp*

Measures 18-21: *mp*

Measures 22-25: *ff*

Measures 26-29: *dim.* --- (*mf*) --- *mp*

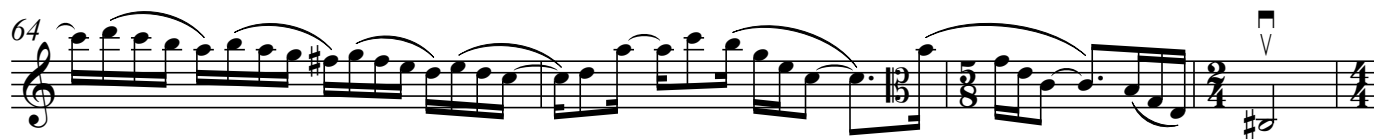
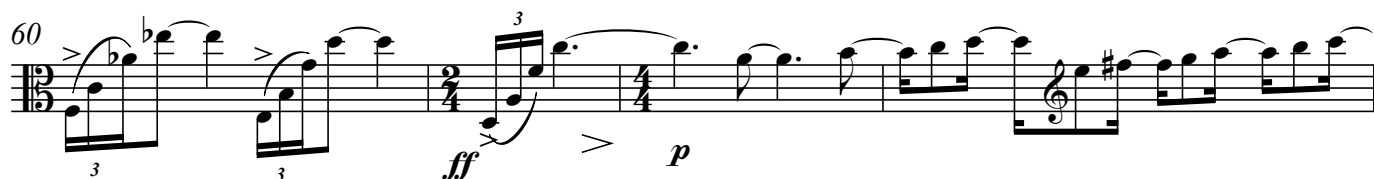
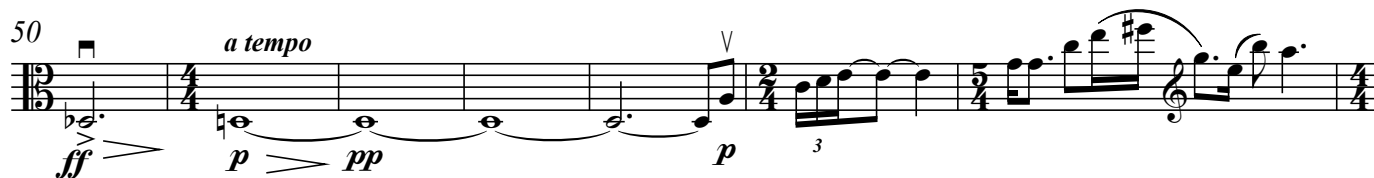
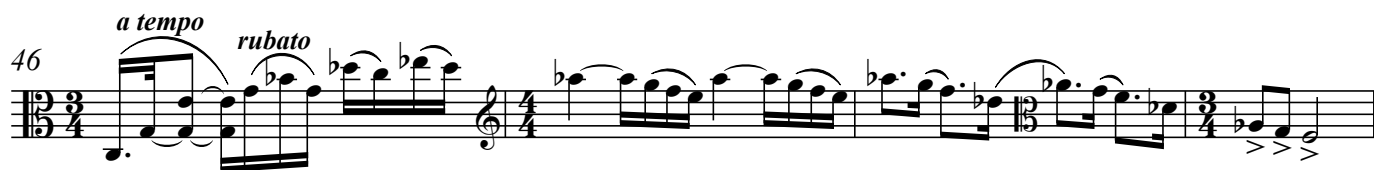
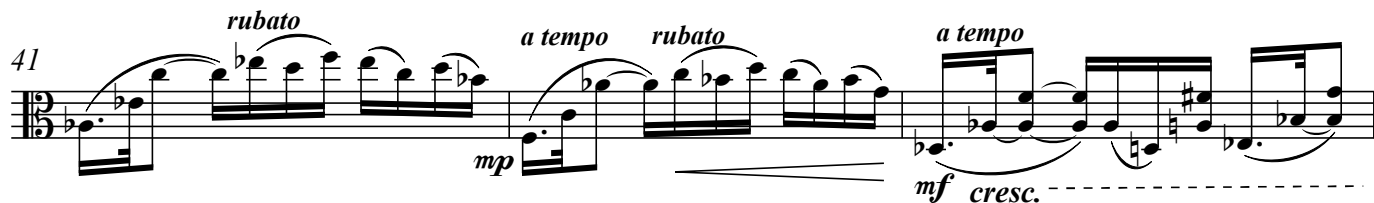
Measures 30-33: *mf* < *f*

Measures 34-35: *ff*, *p*, *mp*

Gayatri Sonata

6

38



[7:15]

7

♩ = 80

Get Them Feet to Rappin'

ff

legato

p *cresc. p. a p.*

(mp)

(mf) *f*

35

38

41

45

ff *pp*

48

pp *ff*

51

pp

54

57

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

64

ff *mp* *p*

70

ff

73

77 *V*

80 *legato*
mp

86 *f*

90 *ff*

93 *rubato*
ff *p* *rit.*

97 *a tempo*
mp

101

105

109

113

116 *V*
mp ff

Detailed description: This page of a musical score for 'Gayatri Sonata' contains measures 77 through 116. The notation is primarily in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The time signature changes frequently, including 2/4, 3/4, 4/4, 5/4, and 6/4. The score features various musical markings such as 'V' (crescendo), 'legato', 'mp' (mezzo-piano), 'f' (forte), 'ff' (fortissimo), 'rubato', 'rit.' (ritardando), and 'a tempo'. There are also dynamic markings like 'ff' with a wedge indicating a crescendo to 'p' (piano). The music consists of flowing melodic lines with many slurs and ties, suggesting a continuous, lyrical character.

Gayatri Sonata

10

