

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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Gayatri Sonata

First Movement

IWHWIFOTBS

♩ = 76

[6']

Bill Robinson

Viola

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*

29

35 *ff* *mp* *mf* *ff*

41 *f* *ff* *f* *ff*

46

ff dim.

51

p mp cresc.

58

(mf) ff

63

ff

Gayatri Sonata

4

69

ff | *p*

74

ff | *p*

80

mp *mf*

mp *mf*

85

f *ff*

85

f *ff*

8^{vb}

91 *ff*

91 *ff*

95

95

98 *ff pp*

98 *f mp dolce*

98 *ff pp*

98 *f mp dolce*

101 *dolce mp*

101 *dolce mp*

Gayatri Sonata

6

106

106

112

112

118

118

124

124

mf

*mf*²

mf cresc. *f* *ff*

mf cresc. *f* *ff*

Gayatri Sonata

7

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" on page 7. It is written in 6/8 time and features a vocal line (soprano, alto, and tenor) and a piano accompaniment (treble and bass). The key signature is one flat (B-flat). The score is divided into four systems, each starting at a specific measure number: 128, 131, 135, and 139. The first system (measures 128-130) shows the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The second system (measures 131-134) continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The third system (measures 135-138) includes a dynamic marking of *ff* (fortissimo) and a *dim.* (diminuendo) marking, followed by a *p* (piano) marking. The fourth system (measures 139-142) also includes a dynamic marking of *ff* and a *dim.* marking, followed by a *p* marking. The score ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

Gayatri Sonata

8

144

149

154

158

8vb---

167

ff

167

8vb

175

f

mf

175

f

mf

184

Ped.

184

Ped.

Ped.

Ped.

Ped.

Ped.

190

Ped.

190

Ped.

Ped.

Ped.

Ped.

Ped.

Ped.

202

cresc. ----- (*mf*) ----- (*f*)

202

cresc. ----- (*mf*) ----- (*f*)

8vb -----

♩ = 70

212

ff

pp

212

ff

pp

This image shows the first system of a musical score, measures 212 to 215. It consists of three staves: a single treble staff at the top, and a grand staff (treble and bass) below it. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/8. The top staff features a melodic line with a crescendo from *ff* to *pp*. The grand staff features a complex accompaniment with many beamed sixteenth notes, also marked with a crescendo from *ff* to *pp*. The system concludes with a repeat sign and a fermata over the final measure.

17

21

mp *ff*

24

27

dim. *(mf)* *mp*

legato 6 6 6

29

29

mp *dolce*

31

31

f *ff*

34

34

mf *f* *ff*

36

36

p *mp*

39

39

rubato

42

a tempo

mp *rubato*

a tempo

mf cresc.

f

42

mf cresc.

f

45

rubato

a tempo

rubato

ff

8va

45

ff

47

a tempo

ff *p*

47

dolce

ff *p*

8vb

52

52

55

57

59

55

57

59

57

59

59

59

59

59

III. Rondo Cappuccino

[7:15]

17

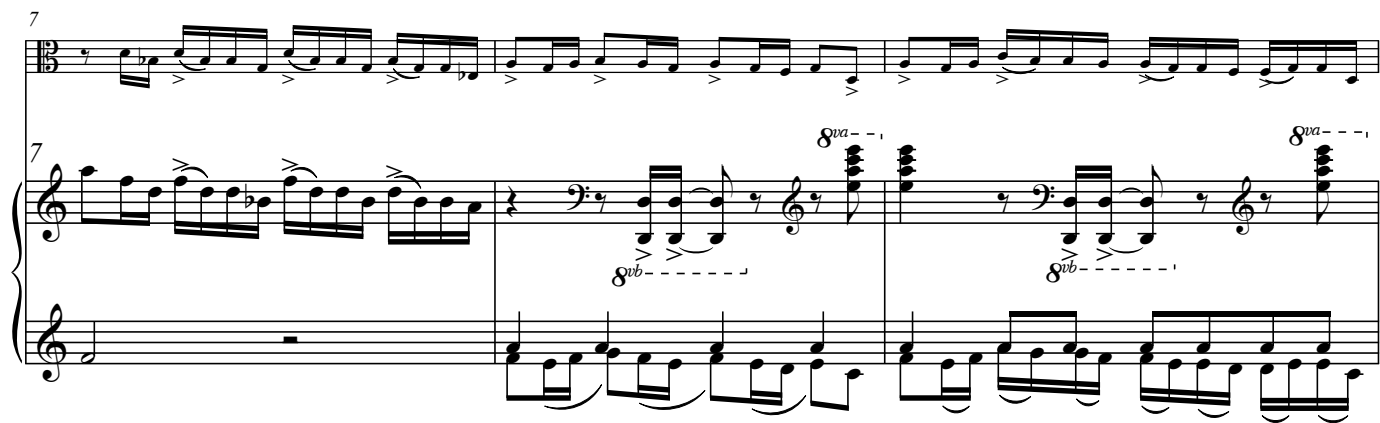
♩ = 80

Git Them Toes To Tappin'

Viola



Piano



13

ff

16

19

22

legato

p *cresc. p. a p.*

8va

p *cresc. p. a p.*

Gayatri Sonata

19

The image displays a musical score for the song "The Rose Tree". It is written for voice and piano. The score is divided into two systems, each starting with a measure number (25 and 26). The key signature is one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The voice part is written in a soprano or alto clef, and the piano accompaniment is in a grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The piano part features a prominent bass line with eighth and sixteenth notes, and a treble part with chords and melodic lines. The score includes dynamic markings such as *mp* (mezzo-piano) and *f* (forte), as well as articulation marks like slurs and accents. 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 music. The first system features a vocal line on a single staff and a piano accompaniment on a grand staff (treble and bass staves). The second system continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line is written in a key with one flat (B-flat) and a 3/4 time signature. The piano accompaniment includes various musical notations such as eighth notes, sixteenth notes, and rests, with dynamic markings like *mf* (mezzo-forte) and *Leg.* (leggero). There are also asterisks (*) placed below the piano part in the second system, likely indicating specific performance techniques or editing points.

31

f *ff*

31

f *ff*

Rea *Rea* *

This musical score is for the song 'The Rose Tree'. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a single staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It begins with a measure marked '31' and a dynamic of *f* (forte). The melody is written in a simple, folk-like style. The second system has two staves: a treble staff and a bass staff. The treble staff begins with a measure marked '31' and a dynamic of *f*. The bass staff begins with a measure marked '31' and a dynamic of *f*. The second system concludes with a measure marked 'ff' (fortissimo) in both staves. The lyrics 'The Rose Tree' are written below the bass staff, with the word 'The' appearing twice and a star symbol at the end.

[illegible]

35

35

37

37

39

39

41

41

8^{vb}

43

(8vb)-----

45

ff *pp*

48

pp *ff*

(8vb)-----

51

pp

(8vb)-----

67

p *ff*

*

71

74

ff 8va

77

f 8va

80 *legato*
mp

80 *mp* *legato*

84

84

88 *f* *ff*

88 *f* *ff*

91 *rubato* *ff* *p*

91 *8va* *8va*

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

95 96 97 98

99

99 100 101 102

103

103 104 105

106

106 107 108 109

109

109

Ped.

112

112

*

115

115

mp *ff*

ff *mp* *ff*

118

118

dolce *mp*

dolce *mp*

Gayatri Sonata

27

121

Ad.

124

Ad.

127

Ad.

129

Ad.

132

mp

134

f *ff*

137

sfz

140

sfz

143

143

145

145

147

147

147 *8va*

149

149

(no rit.)

fff

149 *8va*

fff