

Slava Ukraini

for Two Cellos and Piano



Bill Robinson

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October 18–December 4, 2025; May 6–June 1, 2026

Duration; 20 minutes

for Bonnie Thron

The idea for a piece for two cellos and piano came up during a meal celebrating my 70th birthday in January 2025 with cellist Bonnie Thron, her husband clarinetist Fred Jacobowitz, and violinist Eric Pritchard. But I had a terrible outer ear infection, and by late February I lost my right eardrum, later surgically repaired. I wasn't in shape to compose until September. After a short piano work, "Happy Birthday to Me", I finally got started on this new project.

The first three movements went smoothly. My attempts in December for a fourth stalled, restarted, stalled again, and eventually I gave up. I started from scratch in early March 2026, but then spent two months writing *Revolution Songs*. Finally, in May I changed the focus of the piece by including the State Anthem of Ukraine, "Shche ne vmerla Ukrainy" ("Ukraine has Not Yet Perished"), music by Mykhailo Verbytskyi composed in 1863.

There is also a version of this piece for viola, cello, and piano.

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billrobinsonmusic.com

Cover photo: Ukrainian meme "Zelenskyy Signs the Decree on Permission to Hold a Parade in Moscow", 2026. Modeled after Ilya Repin's "Reply of the Zaporozhian Cossacks".

Slava Ukraini

I. Overture

[4:20]

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As simple as possible but no simpler $\text{♩} = 138$

Cello 1

Cello 2

Piano

p *mp* *cresc.* *mp* *cresc.*

mf *f* *mf* *f*

f *f*

mf *mp* *p* *p* *ff*

ff

8 16 22

Red.

3 *3*

30 *ff*

30

36

36

43

43

51 *rit.*

51 *rit.*

Meno mosso (♩ = 112)

Meno mosso (♩ = 112)

30 *ff*

30

36

36

43

43

51 *rit.*

51 *rit.*

Meno mosso (♩ = 112)

Meno mosso (♩ = 112)

Mov. 1

3

Tempo I (♩ = 138)

Tempo I (♩ = 138)

Red.

Red.

Red.

Red.

Red.

*

60 *dim.* *pp* *f*

67 *cresc.* *ff* *8va* *ff*

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

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

94

pp cresc. p mp mf f

pp cresc. p mp mf f

94

pp pp+ p mp

105

ff dim. f mf mp p

ff dim. f mf mp p

105

p

Reo. *

115

mf cresc. f

mf cresc. f

115

Reo. * Reo. * Reo. * Reo. *

123

mf cresc. f

mf cresc. f

123

mf cresc. f

128

mp

ff

128

mp

ff

135

135

141

141

p

p

Meno mosso
(♩ = 112)

Meno mosso
(♩ = 112)

p

p

149

149

p

p

Leo Leo *

155

p

162

Tempo I (♩ = 138)

cresc. *mp* *mf* *f*

Tempo I (♩ = 138)

170

ff

177

rit. *f* *mf* *p* *pp* *attacca*

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

II. Lullaby

[5:15]

7

Adagio sempre legato e dolce (♩ = 52)

Cello 1

Cello 2

Piano

p *mp* *p* *mp* *mf*

p *mp* *p* *mp* *mf*

p *mp* *p* *mp* *mf*

rit.

a tempo

pp *p* *mp* *mf* *dim.*

pp *p* *mp* *mf* *dim.*

a tempo

pp *p* *mp* *mf* *dim.*

(mp) *p* *pp* *p* *mp*

(mp) *p* *pp* *p* *mp*

(mp) *p* *pp* *p* *mp*

mf *dim.* *(mp)*

mf *dim.* *(mp)*

mf *dim.* *(mp)*

Mov. 2

8

22

p *p* *mp* *mp* *p* *mf* *p* *mf*

28

p *pp* *p* *pp* *p*

28

p *mp*

33

mp *dim.* *p* *pp* *mp* *dim.* *p* *pp*

33

mp *dim.* *p* *pp*

38

p *p*

38

p

40

mf

dim.

mf

dim.

mf

dim.

43

p

pp

pizz.

p

43

p

pp

47

mp

mp

p

cresc.

arco

p

cresc.

47

mp

dim.

p

cresc.

51

(mp)

(mf)

f

51

(mp)

(mf)

f

Musical score for "The Rose Tree" (Der Rosenbaum) by Robert Schumann, Op. 15, No. 2. The score is in 3/4 time and features a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The score is divided into systems, with measures 1-56, 57-60, 60-63, 63-68, and 68-72. Dynamics include *p*, *cresc.*, *mp*, *mf*, *dim.*, and *pp*. The tempo changes from "a tempo" to "rit." and back to "a tempo". The piece concludes with a final chord marked with an asterisk and "8va".

III. What goes around, comes around

[4:40]

11

Theme (♩ = 80)

Cello 1 *mp* *mf* *f*

Cello 2 *mp* *mf* *f*

Piano

6 Var. 1 *mp* *mf*

6 Var. 1 *mp* *mf*

12 *f* *mp*

12 *f* *mp*

18 (♩ = ♩.) Var. 2 (♩ = 80) *cresc.* (*mf*) *f*

18 *cresc.* (*mf*) *f*

(♩ = ♩.) Var. 2 (♩ = 80) *legato cresc.* (*mf*) *f*

18 *legato cresc.* (*mf*) *f*

Rea 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2

Rea *

21

24

27

(♩ = ♩) (♩ = 80)

31

Var. 3 (♩ = 68)

pizz.

p

mp

36 *mf* *mp* *mp* arco

36 *mf* *mp* *mp* *8va* *arco*

42 *mf* *mf* *mf*

42 *mf* *mf* *mf*

46 *f* *mf* *mp* *p* *rit.*

46 *f* *mf* *mp* *p* *rit.* *8va*

Var. 4 (♩ = 54) *cresc.* *(mp)* *(mf)* *f*

Var. 4 (♩ = 54) *cresc.* *(mp)* *(mf)* *f*

57 *cresc.* *ff* *8va*

62 *ff* *dim.* *f* *mf*

68 *(mp)* *p* *pp*

Var. 5 (♩ = 106)

72 *ff*

Var. 5 (♩ = 106)

76 *modo ord.* *fff* *modo ord.* *fff* *non stacc.*

79 *Var. 6* ($\text{♩} = 76$) *fff* *p* *fff* *Var. 6* ($\text{♩} = 76$) *fff*

82 *p* *mp* *mf* *p* *mp* *mf*

87 *rit.* *mp* *p* *pp* *rit.* *mp* *p* *pp*

Allegro tataria (♩ = 94)

Cello 1 *ff*

Cello 2 *ff*

Piano *ff*

8^{va}

5

8^{va}

5

9

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

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

8^{va}

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

15

mf *mp*

15

mf *mp*

Reo. Reo. Reo. *

19

cresc. *ff* *dim.*

8va

cresc. *ff* *dim.*

22

f *(mf)* *mp*

f *(mf)* *mp legato*

8va

26

29

cresc. *(mf)* *f* *ff*

cresc. *(mf)* *f* *ff*

8va

Leg. *

33

33

37

ff dim. *f* *(mf)*

ff *dim.* *f* *(mf)*

ff

40

(mp) *p*

40

(mp) *p legato*

46

46

5 5

51 *rit.* *Shche ne vmerla Ukrainy* (♩ = 86)

p *mf* *mp*

51 *rit.* *Shche ne vmerla Ukrainy*

p *mf* *mp* (♩ = 86)

Lea *Lea* *Lea* *Lea* *Lea* *

55 *gva*

60

60

64

64

69

69

75 Where were we (Tempo I) (♩ = 94)

75

75 Where were we (Tempo I) (♩ = 94)

75

79

79

82

82

This musical score page contains measures 85 through 93. It is organized into three systems, each with a grand staff (bass and treble clefs). The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. Measure numbers 85, 88, 91, and 93 are placed at the beginning of their respective systems. The notation includes various musical symbols such as notes, rests, beams, slurs, and dynamic markings like accents (>) and 'Leo.' (likely for 'legato'). A double asterisk (**) appears at the end of measure 92. The score shows a complex interplay between the two hands, with frequent sixteenth and thirty-second notes.

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. The first system consists of two staves: a vocal staff in the upper part and a piano accompaniment staff in the lower part. The vocal staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The piano accompaniment staff begins with a bass clef and the same key signature. The second system also consists of two staves: a vocal staff in the upper part and a piano accompaniment staff in the lower part. The vocal staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The piano accompaniment staff begins with a bass clef and the same key signature. The tempo is marked "Allegretto". The time signature is 3/4. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, accidentals, and dynamic markings. The word "legato" is written above the vocal staff in the second system. The score is for a single voice and piano.

98

rit. p. a p.

98

rit. p. a p.

ff dim.

f

101 $(\text{♩} = 92)$ $(\text{♩} = 90)$ $(\text{♩} = 88)$ $(\text{♩} = 86)$ S. n. v. U.

The first system of the musical score for 'S. n. v. U.' consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef and contains a melody with a tempo of 92 (♩ = 92), 90 (♩ = 90), 88 (♩ = 88), and 86 (♩ = 86). The lower staff is in bass clef and contains a bass line. The score includes dynamic markings *mf*, *mp*, and *p*. The tempo markings are placed above the upper staff, and the dynamic markings are placed below the lower staff. The system ends with a double bar line.

106

The musical score for 'The Rose Tree' is presented in two systems. The first system, starting at measure 106, features a treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is composed of eighth and sixteenth notes, with a long, sweeping slur covering measures 106 through 110. The bass line consists of a steady eighth-note accompaniment. The second system continues the melody and bass line, with the melody ending on a final chord in measure 110. The key signature remains one flat throughout.

Musical score for "The Swan" by Maurice Strakosky. The score is written for voice and piano. It includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings. The tempo is marked "Lento" (♩ = 70). The score is divided into measures, with measure numbers 111, 116, 121, and 125 indicated. The piano part features a prominent melody in the right hand and a supporting bass line in the left hand. The vocal part consists of a single melodic line. The score includes dynamic markings such as *mp*, *mf*, *pp*, and *p*, as well as performance instructions like *cresc.* and *rit.*. The piano part also includes a section marked "Ped." (pedal) and a section marked "8va" (octave).