

Alicia Castillo

Rise

for string orchestra

2020

Performance Notes

Directions for each part can be found above the corresponding staff. Directions for all parts are written at the top of the score. Directions specifically for the harpist will appear above the harp staves.

This piece can be performed with or without a conductor.

Sections 1 and 5 should be played freely amongst all parts. A pulse will only be present in Sections 2-4.

All timecodes are approximate; performers can take liberty with changing sections and separate entries throughout.

"Collectively" (as mentioned in directions for Sections 2-4) refers to a theme being performed collectively between all three soloists, such as in Section 2. In Section 3, collectively refers to all players who have entered at that moment.

"Theme" (as mentioned in directions for Sections 2-4) refers to the first cell presented in the section.

Approximate Section Durations:

Section 1- 0" to 50"
 Section 2- 50" to 2'30"
 Section 3- 2'30" to 3'00"
 Section 4- 3'00" to 4'30"
 Section 5- 4'30" to 5'00"

Instrumentation:

**Parts may be redistributed throughout as needed.*

Violin I (Group A)
 Violin I (Group B)
 Violin II (Group A)
 Violin II (Group B)
 Viola I
 Viola II
 Cello I
 Cello II
 Double Bass
 Harp

Program Notes

Rise is a work for string orchestra inspired by Dr. Maya Angelou's famous poem, "*Still I Rise*". In the Fall of 2020, I had the wonderful opportunity to virtually collaborate with musicians from the Arizona State University Philharmonia. In drafting the initial ideas for Rise, we kept coming back to themes of "empowerment" and "voice". The musicians continuously expressed their interest in collaborating to create a new work that sought to uplift in a time of racial and political unrest, as well as global health and economic crisis; a work that would showcase all of our voices as diverse individuals with a story to tell.

Rise is written in an open score format, giving the performers creative freedom to allow their own voice to be heard, as well as giving them the opportunity to really listen in to one another. Each theme presented within the piece corresponds to a morse coded rhythm of a word within the phrase "*Still we rise*":



Combining the power of music and voice, fragments of the phrase can be heard all throughout the piece in various parts. The performers take turns at the end speaking words within the phrase before the work culminates with the single word "rise". My hope is that both performers and listeners hear this piece as a promise that despite unprecedented change and challenges, we continue to rise, stand with others in solidarity, and empower those whose voices have been oppressed as Dr. Maya Angelou sought to do with her work.

-Alicia Castillo

Directions for Violins and Violas:

Play with mutes, bowing near the bridge
Change notes in assigned cell slowly (between 4-6" before changing)
Change notes in any order in assigned cell and repeat as desired
Notes can be played as artificial harmonics
Crescendo (mp) and decrescendo (pp) slowly at will

Slowly fade out and stagger exits
once the solo cello enters around 50"

4

1

Freely

Multiple players in the section may stagger entrances
as long as they enter prior to Violin I (Group B).

Directions for Harp:

Let notes ring freely
Change notes slowly (between 4-6" before changing)
Change notes in any order in assigned cell and repeat as desired
Notes can be played individually or as chords

Slowly fade out and stagger exits
once the solo cello enters around 50"

1

Freely

Enter 4-6" after Violin I (Group B)

ca 50"

Directions for all (except soloists and harp):

2'30"


Slowly fade out and stagger exits once the solo cello enters ca 50"
 Play through assigned figures 1-2 or 1-3 in any order or repeats
 Remove mutes once you begin to play your assigned figures
 Figures can be played consecutively or with your any amount of rest in between
 Figures can be bowed or pizz.
 Gradually crescendo throughout this section (mp to mf)

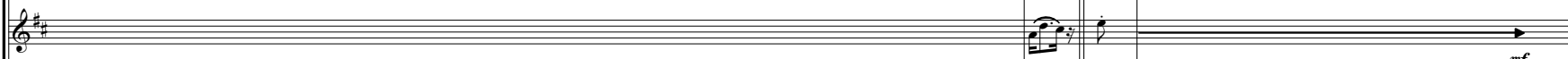
All:

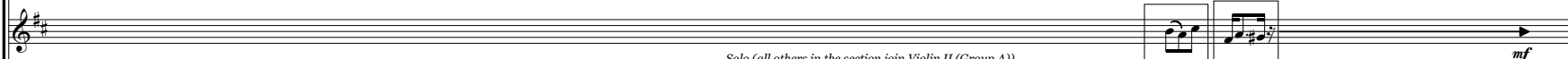
Immediately stop when double
 bass begins playing
 next theme ca 2'30"


5

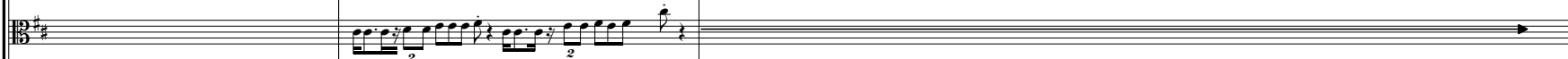
2 $\text{♩} = 60$
 Lively


Violin I (Group A)  Enter on any beat after the theme entry has been collectively heard five times **mp** **mf**

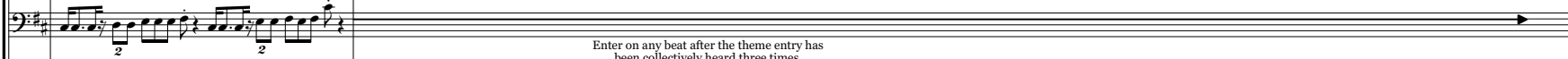
Violin I (Group B)  Enter on any beat after the theme entry has been collectively heard six times **mp** **mf**


Violin II (Group A)  Enter on any beat after the theme entry has been collectively heard seven times **mp** **mf**


Violin II (Group B)  Solo (all others in the section join Viola II)
Enter on any beat after the entry of the theme has collectively heard four times
Repeat x2, take a break, and enter again on any beat. Continue this pattern throughout. **mp** **mf**

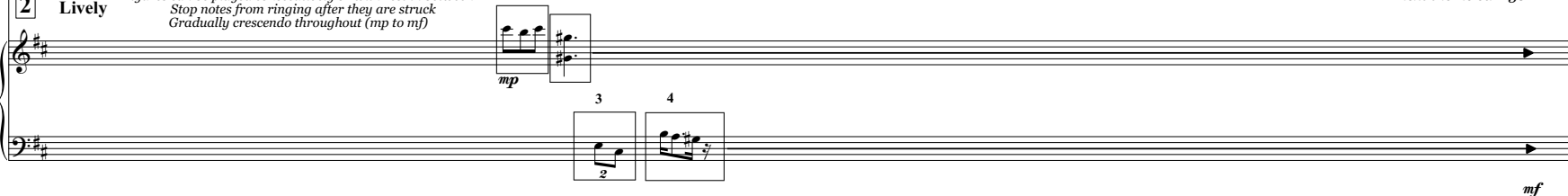
Viola I  Solo (all others in the section join Viola II)
Enter on any beat after the first statement of the theme
Repeat theme x2, take a break, and enter again on any beat.
Continue this pattern throughout. **mp** **mf**

Viola II  Solo (all others in the section join Cello II)
Repeat theme x2, take a break, and enter again on any beat.
Continue this pattern throughout. **mp** **mf**

Cello I  Enter on any beat after the theme entry has been collectively heard three times
Pizz. throughout **mp** **mf**

Cello II  Enter on any beat after the theme has been played once by the solo cellist
Pizz. throughout **mp** **mf**

Double Bass  Enter on any beat after the theme entry has collectively been heard twice **mp** **mf**

Harp  Directions for Harp:
Play assigned figures 1-4 in any order
Figures can be played at any octave and repeated at your will
Figures can be played consecutively or with rest in between
Stop notes from ringing after they are struck
Gradually crescendo throughout (mp to mf) **mp** **mf**

All:

Immediately stop when double
 bass begins playing
 next theme ca 2'30"

mf

All:

When solo violin begins ca 3'00", finish playing your figure in its entirety and then stop. This will create a bleeding over effect in the transition to the next section

3 Building Heavily

Wait until viola II section has entered, and enter on any beat after the theme has collectively been played at least five times.
Repeat continuously throughout section

Viola I

Wait until cello I section has entered, and enter on any beat after the theme has collectively been played at least four times
Repeat continuously throughout section

Viola II

Wait until cello II section has entered, and enter on any beat after the theme has collectively been played at least three times
Repeat continuously throughout section

Cello I

Enter on any beat after double bass section has played theme twice
Repeat continuously throughout section

Cello II

Repeat theme continuously throughout section

Double Bass

Enter on any beat after the theme has collectively been played at least six times
Repeat continuously throughout section
Let notes ring freely

3 Building Heavily

Harp

Warmly

Solo

Repeat x2, take a short break (between 4-6"), and enter again on any beat.
Continue this pattern throughout.

When Cello I says "Rise" ca 4'30", finish playing your figure in its entirety and drop out.

4

7

Violin (Solo) 

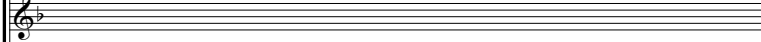
mp


As the beginning-
Disregard the pulse
Change notes in assigned cell slowly (between 4-6" before changing)
Change notes in any order in assigned cell and repeat as desired
Enter any time after the fourth entry of the theme is collectively heard.
Players in section may stagger entrances
Change notes with tenuto articulation



mp

Figure continues to next page

Violin I (Group A) 

Violin I (Group B) 


Enter any beat after the sixth collective entry of the theme

1 2 3

mp

Play through assigned figures 1-3 in any order/ repeats
Figures can be played consecutively or with your any amount of rest in between
Play figures pizz. throughout


Enter any beat after the fifth collective entry of the theme

Violin II (Group A) 

mp

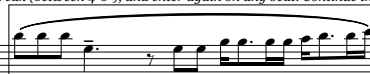
Enter any beat after the seventh collective entry of the theme

1 2 3

Violin II (Group B) 

mp


Solo (all others in section join Viola II)
Enter on any beat after the theme has been played once by solo Violinist
Repeat x2, take a short break (between 4-6"), and enter again on any beat. Continue this pattern throughout.



mp

As the beginning-
Disregard the pulse
Change notes in assigned cell slowly (between 4-6" before changing)
Change notes in any order in assigned cell and repeat as desired
Enter any time after the theme has been played once.
Players in section may stagger entrances
Change notes with tenuto articulation

Figure continues to next page

Viola II 

mp

Solo (all others in the section join Cello II)
Enter on any beat after the third collective entry of the theme has been heard
Repeat x2, take a short break (between 4-6"), and enter again on any beat. Continue this pattern throughout.

Cello I 

mp

As the beginning-
Disregard the pulse
Change notes in assigned cell slowly (between 4-6" before changing)
Change notes in any order in assigned cell and repeat as desired
Enter any time after the theme has been played twice.
Players in section may stagger entrances
Change notes with tenuto articulation

Figure continues to next page

Cello II 


mp

Play through assigned figures 1-3 in any order/ repeats
Figures can be played consecutively or with your any amount of rest in between
Figures can be bowed or pizz.
Enter any beat after the fourth collective entry of the theme has been heard



1 2 3

mp

Double Bass 

Play assigned figures 1-4 in any order
Figures can be played at any octave and repeated as desired
Figures can be played consecutively or with your choice of rest in between
Let notes ring freely

All except Violin I (Group A), Viola II, and Cello II:

When Cello I says "Rise" ca 4'30", finish playing your figure in its entirety and drop out.

4

Warmly


Enter any time after the theme has been played once

1 2

Harp 

mp

3 4

Harp 

5

Freely (as the beginning)

Instrumentalists:

Voices:

Violin I (Group A) start to fade out ca. 4'50"
All others play 2-3 more notes and drop out one by one
Stagger exits until just the voices remain

Put more rest between assigned words once the
instrumentalist have all stopped playing.
Begin to fade out one by one
Stagger exits until "Rise" is the last word heard by Cello I

8

Continue changing as the previous section
Gradually decrescendo (mp to pp)

Violin I (Group A) *As the beginning- Bow near the bridge* **pp**

Violin I (Group B) *Change notes slowly (between 4-6" before changing)
Change notes in any order in assigned cell and repeat as desired
Players in section may stagger entrances
Enter 5-7" after the first "Rise" has been heard* **pp**

Violin II (Group A) *Speak the word "We" every 4-6" pp
Continue to repeat until the ending
Enter 4-6" after "Rise" has been heard
Players in the section may stagger their entries* **pp**

Violin II (Group B) *Speak the word "We" every 4-6"
Continue to repeat until the ending
Enter 5-7" after "Rise" has been heard
Players in the section may stagger their entries* **pp**

Viola I *Continue changing as the previous section
Gradually decrescendo (mp to pp)* **pp**

Viola II *Speak the word "Rise" every 4-6"
Continue to repeat until the ending
Players in the section may stagger their entries* **pp**

Cello I *Speak the word "Rise" every 4-6"
Continue to repeat until the ending
Players in the section may stagger their entries* **pp**

Cello II *Continue as the previous section
Gradually decrescendo (mp to pp)* **pp**

Double Bass *Speak the word "Still" every 4-6"
Continue to repeat until the ending
Enter 3-5" after "Rise" has been heard
Players in the section may stagger their entries* **pp**

Harp *Let notes ring freely
Change notes slowly (between 4-6" before changing)
Change notes in any order in assigned cell and repeat as desired
Notes can be played individually or as chords
Enter 4-6" after you hear the first voice say "Rise"* **mp**

Violin I (Group A) *Violin I (Group A) start to fade out ca. 4'50"
All others play 2-3 more notes and drop out one by one
Stagger exits until just the voices remain* **pp**

5

Freely (as the beginning)

Instrumentalists:

Violin I (Group A) start to fade out ca. 4'50"
All others play 2-3 more notes and drop out one by one
Stagger exits until just the voices remain

pp

mp

pp