

William Kuo

manufactured realities

for viola d'amore, auxiliary instruments, and electronics

2021

PERFORMANCE NOTES

General

- a) Duration: 20 minutes
- b) The score is notated in concert pitch, except for the left-hand staff of the strings on which the fingered pitches are notated, not the resulting.

Viola d'amore Scordatura

a)

- b) The viola d'amore uses two staves. The top staff uses an action clef and the bottom staff uses an action clef, a treble clef, or a bass clef.

The action clef is used to denote bowing position either on the **strings** (between the fingerboard (molto sul tasto) and the bridge) or on the **tailpiece**.

With regard to **bowing position** on the strings, the **top line indicates the bridge**, the **middle line indicates the edge of the fingerboard**, and the **bottom line indicates a distance of 3 inches up the fingerboard** (approximately the same distance between the edge of the fingerboard and the bridge).

As for the **bowing position on the tailpiece**, the **top line indicates the bottom of the tailpiece** (closer to the ground) and the bottom line indicates the **top of the tailpiece**.

At times, the action clef indicates left-hand rubbing motion up and down the neck. The top line indicates the bottom of the neck, the bottom line indicates the top of the neck.

The bass clef is used to indicate fingered natural harmonics given by white diamond-shaped note heads or half harmonic pressure fingered notes given by black diamond-shaped note heads.

There are instances in which the indicated bowing position exceeds the range of the action clef, such as when the performer must bow on the coil (the coloured wrappings close to the tailpiece).

- c) The action clef is used to indicate the approximate position of where the bow should land for battuto. When two strings and two lines are indicated, both strings must be struck at the same time. Ending pitches are not indicated for the battuto glissandi; however, the resulting pitches should not exceed three quarter-tones.

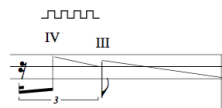
- d) A black diamond-shaped note head indicates a half harmonic stop (finger pressure between that of a normal pressure and harmonic pressure). This should produce a vague hint of pitch.

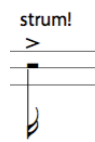
Arco balzando. Allow the bow to bounce against the strings freely by its own weight.

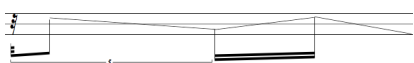
The first few bounces should be slightly heavier and dull (almost pitchless) and slower, gradually getting lighter and faster with each successive bounce. Bowing direction indicates the motion of the arm while bouncing the bow against the strings.

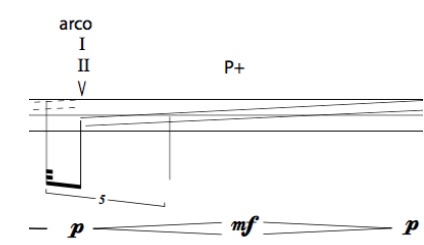
g) col legno tratto Bowing with the wood of the bow.

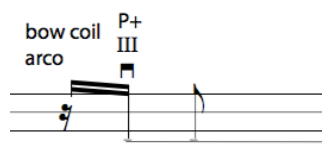
h) ½ col legno tratto Bowing with both the wood and the hair of the bow.

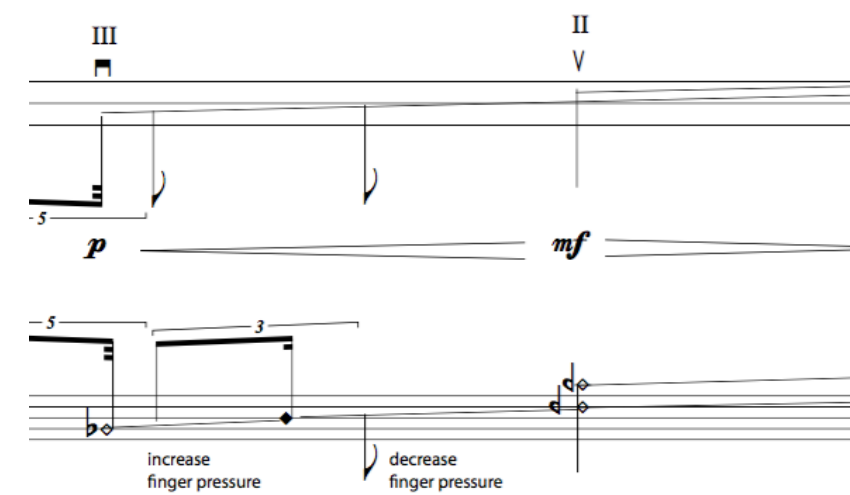
i)  best The tooth-shaped line indicates overpressure bowing in a diagonal motion. This technique is performed at the frog, dragging the bow very slowly across the indicated string, so that the individual hairs of the bow are allowed to be dragged to produce a perforated sound, not a squeaky sound.

j)  Percussive strum across all four strings with the fingers of the right hand while muting the strings with the left. The point of execution is at the edge of the fingerboard as indicated by the notation.

k)  The bowing should always be flautando. When there are no fingered harmonics in the left hand, one should only hear a wind-like sound produced by the friction between the strings and the bow. When there are harmonics, they should be clearly produced but within the dynamic range given.

l)  When a P+ symbol is indicated in the middle of a crescendo, increase bow pressure slightly to produce a slight distortion.

m)  When a P+ symbol is indicated in the beginning, the pressure should be applied consistently for the entire duration of the gesture. In this case, slight pressure is applied on the violin to produce a continuous high squeaky noise.

n) 

In some cases, a gradual change in finger pressure is desired.

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Manufactured Realities

4/4 $\text{♩} = 46-52$

Viola d'Amore (fingered)

Electronics

bow position
close to neck
VII

ppp

Donner Harmonic Square -1 Oct
25% Dry
100% Wet
EQ: +0.5dB hi, +3dB mid, +5dB low

Cue 1: Field Recording

13

VI VII VII VI VII VII VI VII VI VII

VdA (fingered)

Elec.

normal

f *mp* *f* *mp* *f* *mp* *f* *mp*

3:2

25

normal close to bridge

VdA (fingered)

Elec.

ff *ff* *p*

prepare Harmonic Square setting

Harmonic Square OFF

Cue 2: voice clip #1

37

sul tasto
VII half pitch half noise

VdA (fingered)

Elec.

pppp

Donner Harmonic Square -1 Oct
25% Dry
100% Wet

Cue 3: voice clip #2