

PASSACAGLIA FOR STRINGS

By Michael Senturia

INSTRUMENTATION

Conductor Score	1
Violin I	8
Violin II	8
Viola	5
Cello	5
String Bass	5

PROGRAM NOTES

A *passacaglia* is a Baroque form in which variations are constructed above a repeated, stately bass line in triple meter. Here, the measured variations of the first part are balanced by a more lively conclusion.

NOTES TO THE CONDUCTOR

Here is an ideal way to introduce young string players to simple, yet endlessly fascinating, Baroque variation technique. Above a stately bass line appears a series of contrasting textures, each requiring a different bowing technique. And at the end, there is a quick romp, itself also a variation! Make sure your players observe the dynamic, as well as stylistic contrasts as the piece unfolds. The section that begins at m. 27 is *detaché* while the section that begins at m. 43 in the upper strings is *spiccato*. Let them enjoy the tag endings on the second beats of the allegro at bar 91.



Passacaglia for Strings

CONDUCTOR SCORE
Duration - 5:05

Michael Senturia

Maestoso (♩ = 76)

div.

Violins
I
II

Viola

Cello

String Bass

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

1 2 3 4 5 6

Vlns.
I
II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

p *p* *p* *p* *p* *p*

unison

11

7 8 9 10 11 12 13

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

14 15 16 17 18 19

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

20 21 22 23 24 25 26

27

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

mf

mf 27 28 29 30

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

31 32 33 34

35

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

35 36 37

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

38 39 40

43

Vlns. I
Vlns. II
Vla.
Cello
Str. Bass

p *pizz.* *p*

41 42 *p* 43

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for measures 41, 42, and 43. It features five staves: Violins I and II, Viola, Cello, and String Bass. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#). In measure 41, all instruments play a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. In measure 42, the strings play a similar pattern, while the woodwinds (Vlns. I and II) have rests. In measure 43, the woodwinds play a triplet of eighth notes marked with a *p* dynamic and a *pizz.* (pizzicato) instruction. The strings also play a triplet of eighth notes marked with a *p* dynamic. A box containing the number 43 is positioned above the first staff.

Vlns. I
Vlns. II
Vla.
Cello
Str. Bass

p

44 45 46 47

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for measures 44, 45, 46, and 47. It features five staves: Violins I and II, Viola, Cello, and String Bass. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#). In measure 44, the woodwinds (Vlns. I and II) play a triplet of eighth notes marked with a *p* dynamic. In measure 45, the woodwinds play a triplet of eighth notes. In measure 46, the woodwinds play a triplet of eighth notes. In measure 47, the woodwinds play a triplet of eighth notes. The strings play a simple rhythmic pattern of quarter notes in all measures.

Musical score for measures 48-51. The score is for five instruments: Violins I and II, Viola, Cello, and String Bass. The key signature is two sharps (D major or F# minor). Measure 48 starts with a fermata over the first note. Measures 49 and 50 feature triplets in the violin parts. Measure 51 is marked with a box containing the number 51 and includes dynamic markings *p* and *dolce*, as well as performance instructions *arco* and *div.* (divisi).

Musical score for measures 52-56. The score continues for the same five instruments. Measures 52 and 53 feature *sim.* (sforzando) markings in the violin parts. Measures 54, 55, and 56 feature *V* (vibrato) markings in the violin parts. The string bass part remains mostly silent with some notes in measures 54 and 55.

59

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

p

p

p

unison

arco

pp

p

pp

57 58 59 60

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

61 62 63 64

67

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

pizz.

p

pizz.

p

pizz.

p

pizz.

mp

pizz.

mp

65 66 67 68

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

69 70 71 72 73

74 Un poco più mosso (♩ = 88)

arco
mf

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

arco
mf

arco
mp

74 75 76

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

77 78 79

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

80 81 82

80 81 82

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

83 84 85

83 84 85

I Vlns.

II Vlns.

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

rit.

86 87 88 89

90 **Allegro subito!** (♩ = 112)

I Vlns.

II Vlns.

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

f

f

90 91 92 93 94

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

95 96 97 98 99

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for measures 95 through 99. It features five staves: Violins I and II, Viola, Cello, and String Bass. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#). The notation includes various note values, rests, and dynamic markings such as accents and hairpins. A large red watermark is overlaid diagonally across the page.

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

100 101 102 103 104

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for measures 100 through 104. It features five staves: Violins I and II, Viola, Cello, and String Bass. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#). The notation includes various note values, rests, and dynamic markings such as accents and hairpins. A large red watermark is overlaid diagonally across the page.

I
Vlns.

II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

105 106 107 108

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for measures 105 through 108. It features five staves: Violins I, Violins II, Viola, Cello, and String Bass. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#). The Violin I part has a melodic line with eighth-note patterns. The Violin II part has a similar pattern but with some rests. The Viola, Cello, and String Bass parts provide harmonic support with sustained notes and some movement. Dynamics include *p* (piano) and *mf* (mezzo-forte). A large red watermark 'Preview Only' is overlaid on the score.

I
Vlns.

II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

109 110 111 112 113 114

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for measures 109 through 114. It features five staves: Violins I, Violins II, Viola, Cello, and String Bass. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#). The Violin I part has a melodic line with eighth-note patterns. The Violin II part has a similar pattern but with some rests. The Viola, Cello, and String Bass parts provide harmonic support with sustained notes and some movement. Dynamics include *p* (piano) and *mf* (mezzo-forte). A large red watermark 'Preview Only' is overlaid on the score.

115

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

f

115 116 117 118 119 120

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

121 122 123 124 125 126

I
Vlns.
II
Vla.
Cello
Str. Bass

127 128 129 130 131 132 133

This musical score block covers measures 127 to 133. It features five staves: Violins I and II, Viola, Cello, and String Bass. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#). The Violin parts play a melodic line with accents. The Viola, Cello, and String Bass parts provide a harmonic accompaniment with sustained notes and some rhythmic movement. A large red watermark is overlaid on the score.

I
Vlns.
II
Vla.
Cello
Str. Bass

134 135 136 137 138 139

dim.
dim.
(V)
dim.
dim.
(V)

This musical score block covers measures 134 to 139. It features the same five staves as the previous block. The key signature changes to one sharp (F#). The Violin parts continue their melodic line, with some dynamics markings like *dim.* and *trp.*. The Viola, Cello, and String Bass parts have long notes with *dim.* markings and some rests. A large red watermark is overlaid on the score.

141

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

sub. f

140 *sub. f* 141 142 143 144

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

145 146 147 148 149 150

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