

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

Viola

Cello

String Bass

Vlms.

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Violins I and II: *f*

Viola: *f* (measures 1-3), *mp* (measures 4-6)

Cello: *f* (measures 1-3), *mp* (measures 4-6)

String Bass: *f* (measures 1-3), *mp* (measures 4-6)

Measures: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Violins I and II: *p*

Viola: *p*

Cello: *p*

String Bass: *p*

Measures: 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

mf

mf

mf

27

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

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

This block contains the musical notation for measures 35, 36, and 37. It features five staves: Violins I, Violins II, Viola, Cello, and String Bass. Measures 35 and 36 begin with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The notation includes various rhythmic patterns such as eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests. A large red watermark is overlaid diagonally across the page.

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

38 39 40

This block contains the musical notation for measures 38, 39, and 40. It features the same five staves as the previous block. The notation continues with various rhythmic patterns and rests. A large red watermark is overlaid diagonally across the page.

43

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

p

pizz.

41 42 *p* 43

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

p

44 45 46 47

Score for Violins (Vlns.), Viola (Vla.), Cello, and String Bass (Str. Bass) from measures 48 to 51. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#).

Violins (Vlns.): Part I and II. Measures 48-51 feature triplets and a *dolce* section starting at measure 51 with a *p* dynamic.

Viola (Vla.): Measures 48-51. Measure 51 includes *arco* and *p* dynamics.

Cello: Measures 48-51. Measure 51 includes *p* and *dolce* dynamics.

Str. Bass: Measures 48-51. Measure 51 includes *p* and *dolce* dynamics.

Measure numbers: 48, 49, 50, 51.

Score for Violins (Vlns.), Viola (Vla.), Cello, and String Bass (Str. Bass) from measures 52 to 56. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#).

Violins (Vlns.): Part I and II. Measures 52-56 feature *sim.* (sforzando) markings.

Viola (Vla.): Measures 52-56. Measures 52-55 feature *sim.* markings.

Cello: Measures 52-56. Measures 52-55 feature *sim.* markings.

Str. Bass: Measures 52-56. Measures 52-55 feature *sim.* markings.

Measure numbers: 52, 53, 54, 55, 56.

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

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

p

p

p

arco

p

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Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

83 84 85

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86 87 88 89

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

rit.

90 Allegro subito! (♩ = 112)

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

f

90 91 92 93 94

Vlns.

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

95 96 97 98 99

Vlns.

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

100 101 102 103 104

Score for measures 105-108, featuring Violins (Vlns.), Viola (Vla.), Cello, and String Bass (Str. Bass).

Measures 105-108 show a complex rhythmic pattern in the Violins, with the Viola, Cello, and String Bass providing harmonic support. The Viola, Cello, and String Bass parts are marked with *p* (piano) dynamics.

Measures 105 106 107 108

Score for measures 109-114, featuring Violins (Vlns.), Viola (Vla.), Cello, and String Bass (Str. Bass).

Measures 109-114 show a complex rhythmic pattern in the Violins, with the Viola, Cello, and String Bass providing harmonic support. The Viola, Cello, and String Bass parts are marked with *p* (piano) dynamics.

Measures 109 110 111 112 113 114

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

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

127 128 129 130 131 132 133

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

134 135 136 137 138 139

dim.

dim.

(V)

dim.

(V)

dim.

(V)

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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