

*Whispers* is a melody. Fragments of melody, fragile, intimate, and expressive, are mostly played *sempre molto flautando*, either at *sul tasto extreme* or at *sul pont.* The solo explores quiet timbral nuances, mostly at the top of the lower strings.

Silence is the canvas – all threads of sound surface out of, and disappear into, silence. Imagine each fragment is framed in silence. The silences should be carefully weighed – they are never static and always in motion.

There are five sections.

A palette of timbres explores specific modes of vibrato, articulation, timbre, and dynamic.

Every detail is important! – carefully trace and shape each fragment, exploring exact timbral nuance, differentiation, and extremes.

Please note at *mp* the sound opens, is no longer so intimate and should be projected to the very back of the hall.

There are no time signatures. The graphics of the score shows the proportions of durations.

Tempo 50 is the initial central tempo, but it is only a guideline. The basic pulse should vary from section to section. Minimum tempo can be circa 40.

Further faster tempi are necessary moving on to reinforce the phrasing of the gestures. Explore the melodies to find your own tempo and interpretation.

Keep the pulse always in motion, never stagnant – timeless, but avoid always avoid melancholy.

Rebecca Saunders, Berlin, August 2023

