

KELVIN THOMSON

# PRESENT TIME

FOR PIANO QUARTET

Time present and time past  
Are both perhaps present in time future,  
And time future contained in time past.  
If all time is eternally present  
All time is unredeemable.  
What might have been is an abstraction  
Remaining a perpetual possibility  
Only in a world of speculation.

From T.S. Eliot *Four Quartets*

*In memory of Gustav Mahler (1860-1911)*

Submitted on the 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2010 as part of the  
Mahler composition contest 2010/2011

Duration: [c. 20:00]

# PRESENT TIME

Kelvin Thomson

**♩=120 Deliberate**  
sul pont. *f*

Violin

*f* sul pont.

Viola

*f* sul pont.

Violoncello

*f*

**♩=120 Deliberate**  
*f*

Piano

**♩=60 Suddenly slow and abstract**  
con sord. sul tasto *p*

3

*p* con sord. sul tasto

*p* con sord. sul tasto

*p* *quasi recit.*

**♩=60 Suddenly slow and abstract**  
*p*

*p*

*Red.*

6

Musical score for measures 6-8. The system consists of three staves: a top staff with a treble clef, a middle staff with an alto clef, and a bottom staff with a bass clef. The top staff contains a melodic line with a flat (b) and a sharp (#) in the first measure, and a fermata in the second measure. The middle staff has a complex rhythmic pattern with many sixteenth notes. The bottom staff has a simple bass line with a flat (b) and a sharp (#) in the first measure, and a fermata in the second measure. The word "Ped." is written below the bottom staff in the first and second measures.

9

Musical score for measures 9-11. The system consists of three staves: a top staff with a treble clef, a middle staff with an alto clef, and a bottom staff with a bass clef. The top staff contains a melodic line with a flat (b) and a sharp (#) in the first measure, and a fermata in the second measure. The middle staff has a complex rhythmic pattern with many sixteenth notes. The bottom staff has a simple bass line with a flat (b) and a sharp (#) in the first measure, and a fermata in the second measure. The word "Ped." is written below the bottom staff in the first and second measures.

12

Musical score for measures 12-14. The system consists of three staves: a top staff with a treble clef, a middle staff with an alto clef, and a bottom staff with a bass clef. The top staff contains a melodic line with a flat (b) and a sharp (#) in the first measure, and a fermata in the second measure. The middle staff has a complex rhythmic pattern with many sixteenth notes. The bottom staff has a simple bass line with a flat (b) and a sharp (#) in the first measure, and a fermata in the second measure. The word "Ped." is written below the bottom staff in the first and second measures.

**Deliberate**  
senza sord.sul pont.

**Pensive**  
sul tasto

con sord. sul tasto

*f* *ppp* *p espress.*

**Deliberate** *f* **Pensive** *ppp* *p* *ppp* 5

20

*ppp* con sord.sul tasto *p espress.* *ppp* pizz. *p* pizz. *p*

**♩=69 Misterioso**

27

*p dolce*

34

Musical score for measures 34-40. The score is written for a grand piano with three staves: two for the piano (treble and bass clefs) and one for the violin (treble clef). The piano part features a continuous pattern of triplets in both hands. The violin part has a melodic line with some slurs and rests.

41 arco nat.

*mp dolce*

Musical score for measures 41-47. The score is written for a grand piano with three staves. The piano part continues with triplets. The violin part is marked *arco nat.* and *mp dolce*, featuring a melodic line with slurs and a trill in measure 47.

48

Musical score for measures 48-54. The score is written for a grand piano with three staves. The piano part continues with triplets. The violin part has a melodic line with slurs and a trill in measure 54.

**♩=138 Attacca 'funk'**  
sul pont.  
arco

55

*f*  
sul pont.  
arco

*f*  
sul pont.  
arco

*f*

**♩=138 Attacca 'funk'**

*f*

8<sup>ub</sup>

60

*p*

*f*

*f*

*f*

8<sup>ub</sup>

64

*p*

*f*

*f*

*f*

8<sup>ub</sup>

68

*mf*  
nat.

*mf*

(8)

72

*mf*

(8)

76

*mf*

(8)



80 nat.  
*p*

*mp*  
nat.

*p*

3 3 3

3/3 3/3

(8)

84

(8)

88 =108 Deliberate

*mp* 3 3 3

pizz.  
*p*

*p*

=108 Deliberate

(8)

94

100

106

112

*f*

*f*

119  $\text{♩} = 88$

**Religioso**  
sul tasto con sord.

*p*

*ppp*  
con sord. sul tasto

*pp*

*p* arco

*pp*  
con sord. sul tasto

*pp*

$\text{♩} = 88$

**Religioso**

*p*

*pp*

127

*pp*

pizz.

senza sord. sul pont.

pizz.

pizz.

*pp*

*ppp*

Red. \_\_\_\_\_

♩=120 Suddenly deliberate

♩=108 Gently but moving

135 arco con sord. sul tasto

senza sord. sul pont. arco con sord. sul tasto

senza sord. sul pont. arco con sord. sul tasto

*f* *p* *p*

♩=120 Suddenly deliberate

♩=108 Gently but moving

*f* *p*

138

abrupt end

abrupt end

abrupt end

abrupt end

abrupt end

ca. 10"

♩=108 Tentatively

nat. ♯

*p* *pizz.* *p* *pizz.* arco

*p*

♩=108 Tentatively

*p*

$\text{♩} = 90$  Flowing and conversational

147

Musical score for measures 147-149. The system includes three staves: Violin (top), Viola (middle), and Cello/Double Bass (bottom). The Violin part starts with a *mp* dynamic and includes the instruction "arco". The Viola and Cello/Double Bass parts feature tremolos and sustained notes with *p* dynamics. The key signature has one sharp (F#).

$\text{♩} = 90$  Flowing and conversational

Musical score for measures 147-149, piano part. The piano part consists of two staves (treble and bass clef). It features a melodic line in the treble clef with *mp* dynamics and rests in the bass clef.

150

Musical score for measures 150-152. The system includes three staves: Violin (top), Viola (middle), and Cello/Double Bass (bottom). The Violin part has a melodic line with *p* dynamics. The Viola and Cello/Double Bass parts feature tremolos and sustained notes with *p* dynamics. The key signature has one sharp (F#).

153

Musical score for measures 153-155. The system includes three staves: Violin (top), Viola (middle), and Cello/Double Bass (bottom). The Violin part has a melodic line with *p* dynamics. The Viola and Cello/Double Bass parts feature tremolos and sustained notes with *p* dynamics. The key signature has one sharp (F#).

157

Musical score for measures 157-161. The score is in 6/4 time and consists of two systems. The first system has three staves: Treble, Bass, and a grand staff (Treble and Bass). The second system has two staves: Treble and Bass. Dynamics include *f*, *p*, and *mf*. The key signature has one sharp (F#).

162

Musical score for measures 162-164. The score is in 6/4 time and consists of two systems. The first system has three staves: Treble, Bass, and a grand staff. The second system has two staves: Treble and Bass. Dynamics include *p*. Performance markings include *pizz.* and *arco*. The key signature has one sharp (F#).

165

Musical score for measures 165-169. The score is in 6/4 time and consists of two systems. The first system has three staves: Treble, Bass, and a grand staff. The second system has two staves: Treble and Bass. Dynamics include *mf*. The key signature has one sharp (F#).

167

Musical score for measures 167-168. The score is in 6/4 time and consists of four staves. The first two staves are for the violin and viola, and the last two are for the piano. Measure 167 starts with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The violin and viola parts have a long slur over the first two notes. The piano part has a forte (*f*) dynamic. Measure 168 features a *pizz.* (pizzicato) instruction for the violin and viola, and an *arco* (arco) instruction for the piano. Dynamics include *p* and *f*. Trills (*tr*) are present in the piano part.

169

Musical score for measures 169-171. The score is in 6/4 time and consists of four staves. Measure 169 starts with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The violin and viola parts have a long slur over the first two notes. The piano part has a forte (*f*) dynamic. Measure 170 features a *pizz.* (pizzicato) instruction for the violin and viola, and an *arco* (arco) instruction for the piano. Dynamics include *p* and *f*. Trills (*tr*) are present in the piano part. Measure 171 features a tempo marking of  $\text{♩} = 72$  Ethereal and a dynamic of *ppp* (pianissimo). The violin and viola parts have a long slur over the first two notes. The piano part has a *ppp* dynamic. The text "sul tasto" is written above the violin and viola staves.

172

Musical score for measures 172-174. The score is in 6/4 time and consists of four staves. Measure 172 starts with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The violin and viola parts have a long slur over the first two notes. The piano part has a forte (*f*) dynamic. Measure 173 features a *pizz.* (pizzicato) instruction for the violin and viola, and an *arco* (arco) instruction for the piano. Dynamics include *p* and *f*. Trills (*tr*) are present in the piano part. Measure 174 features a tempo marking of  $\text{♩} = 72$  Ethereal and a dynamic of *ppp* (pianissimo). The violin and viola parts have a long slur over the first two notes. The piano part has a *ppp* dynamic. The text "sul tasto" is written above the violin and viola staves.

175

*mf* *p*

8<sup>va</sup> 8<sup>vb</sup>

180

*mp* *mp* *mp*

8<sup>va</sup> 8<sup>vb</sup>

184

*ppp* *p* *mp*

*ppp* *pizz.* *pizz.* *pizz.*

*ppp* *p* *p*

8<sup>va</sup>

*ppp* *p* *p*

8<sup>va</sup>

*ppp* *p* *p*

♩=138 Attacca 'funk'



189

Violin part: Treble clef, one sharp (F#), 4/4 time signature. Measures 189-193.

Piano accompaniment: Treble and Bass clefs, one sharp (F#), 4/4 time signature. Measures 189-193.

194

Violin part: Treble clef, one sharp (F#), 4/4 time signature. Measures 194-198. *solo arco nat.* in measure 198.

Piano accompaniment: Treble and Bass clefs, one sharp (F#), 4/4 time signature. Measures 194-198.

199

Violin part: Treble clef, one sharp (F#), 4/4 time signature. Measures 199-203. *tr* in measure 203.

Piano accompaniment: Treble and Bass clefs, one sharp (F#), 4/4 time signature. Measures 199-203.

204

Musical score for measures 204-208. The system includes a vocal line with a melodic line and a piano accompaniment with chords and moving lines in both hands.

209

*arco sul tasto*  
*ppp*  
*arco sul tasto*  
*ppp*  
*arco sul tasto*  
*ppp*

*mf* =108 Declamatory

*sul pont.*  
*mf*

*pizz.*  
*mf*

*ppp*

*ppp*

*mf* =108 Declamatory

Musical score for measures 209-215. The system includes a vocal line with a melodic line and a piano accompaniment with chords and moving lines in both hands. Performance instructions include 'arco sul tasto', 'ppp', 'sul pont.', 'mf', and 'pizz.'

216

*sul tasto*  
*p*  
*arco nat.*  
*p*

*p*

*p*

Musical score for measures 216-220. The system includes a vocal line with a melodic line and a piano accompaniment with chords and moving lines in both hands. Performance instructions include 'sul tasto', 'p', and 'arco nat.'



238

Musical score for measures 238-241. The system consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef and contains a melodic line with eighth-note patterns and rests. The lower staff is in bass clef and contains a bass line with fewer notes. A dynamic marking of *mf* is present in the second measure of the upper staff.

242

Musical score for measures 242-245. The system consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef and features a complex melodic line with many sixteenth notes. The lower staff is in bass clef and provides harmonic support with chords and some melodic fragments. A dynamic marking of *mf* is present in the first measure of the upper staff.

246

Musical score for measures 246-249. The system consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef and contains a melodic line with eighth-note patterns. The lower staff is in bass clef and contains a bass line with chords and some melodic fragments. Dynamic markings of *p* are present in the second and third measures of the upper staff.

250  $\text{♩} = 60$  Smoothly  
con sord. sul tasto

con sord. sul tasto

$\text{♩} = 60$  Smoothly

255

con sord. sul tasto

$\text{♩} = 60$  Smoothly

ca. 10"

260  $\text{♩} = 120$  meccanico and driving

pizz.

$\text{♩} = 120$  meccanico and driving

pizz.

266  $\text{♩} = 90$  slower *mf*

271  $\text{♩} = 72$  even slower *mp*

276  $\text{♩} = 90$  medium 'funk' *arco nat.* *pizz.*

281

solo arco nat.

*mf*

3

3

286

3

3

290

3

3

295

Musical score for measures 295-298. The system consists of four staves. The top staff is in treble clef, the second and third are in bass clef, and the bottom is a grand staff. Measure 295 starts with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). A triplet of eighth notes is marked with a '3' in measure 296. The bottom staff features a section marked '8va' with a '1' in measure 297.

299

Musical score for measures 299-302. The system consists of four staves. The top staff is in treble clef, the second and third are in bass clef, and the bottom is a grand staff. Measures 299-302 are marked with a dynamic of *p* (piano). The top staff has an 'arco' marking above it. The bottom staff has an '8va' marking above it.

303

Musical score for measures 303-306. The system consists of four staves. The top staff is in treble clef, the second and third are in bass clef, and the bottom is a grand staff. Measures 303-306 are marked with a dynamic of *p* (piano). The bottom staff has an '8va' marking above it.



307

(8)

311

$\text{♩} = 72$  winding down

*pp*

(8)

$\text{♩} = 72$  winding down

*pp*

314

(8)

319 con sord.sul tasto

pp con sord.sul tasto

p

8<sup>va</sup> p

324

pp

pp

pp

(8)-----

330

ppp

ppp

pp

(8)-----  
pp

336 ca. 5"  $\text{♩} = 60$  Gently *espress.*  
con sord. sul tasto *p*  
*ppp legato*  
con sord. sul tasto  
*ppp legato*  
*pp*  
(8).....

343

348

*ppp*  
*ppp*  
*ppp*  
*ppp*  
*ppp*  
*ppp*  
*ppp*  
Red.

352

357

**♩=88 Deliberate** **Gently with pulse**

363 *sul pont.*  $\overset{5}{\vee}$

*senza sord.sul pont.*

*con sord.sul tasto*  $\overset{3}{\text{—}}$

*senza sord.sul pont.*  $\overset{5}{\vee}$

*con sord.sul tasto*  $\overset{3}{\text{—}}$

*f* *mp* *mp*

**♩=88 Deliberate** **Gently with pulse**

*f*  $\overset{5}{\vee}$   $\overset{3}{\text{—}}$  *p*  $\overset{5}{\vee}$   $\overset{5}{\vee}$   $\overset{5}{\vee}$   $\overset{5}{\vee}$

367 *con sord.sul tasto*

*mp*

3 3 3

5 5 5

*mp*

3

371

*mp*

3 3

374

*p*

V 5 5

5 5 5

3

377 *V* *p* 5 5 5 5 *mf* senza sord. *mf* senza sord. *mf* senza sord. *mf*

*♩*=108 *Deliberate*

380 *Strange waltz* *p leggiero* *p leggiero* *Strange waltz* *p* *8va* 3 3 3 3

383 (8) *t* 3 3 3 3

386

*p*  
*pp*  
*pp*

(8)

389

*mf*  
*mf*  
*mf*

(8)-1

392

**♩=138 Attacca 'funk'**  
pizz.

*ff*  
*mf*  
*mf*

arco sul pont.  
arco sul pont.

**♩=138 Attacca 'funk'**

(8)

395

Musical score for measures 395-397. The score is written for piano and includes a grand staff with treble and bass clefs. The music features a complex rhythmic pattern with many sixteenth notes and rests. The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#). The piece concludes with a double bar line and a *ff* dynamic marking.

398

Musical score for measures 398-400. The score continues the complex rhythmic pattern from the previous system. It features a grand staff with treble and bass clefs and a key signature of two sharps. The music is dense with sixteenth notes and rests.

401

Musical score for measures 401-403. The score continues the complex rhythmic pattern. It features a grand staff with treble and bass clefs and a key signature of two sharps. The music is dense with sixteenth notes and rests.



404

Musical score for measures 404-406. The system consists of two grand staves. The upper grand staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lower grand staff has a bass clef and a key signature of one flat. The music features a complex rhythmic pattern with many sixteenth and thirty-second notes. The right hand of the upper grand staff plays a melodic line with frequent slurs and accents. The left hand of the upper grand staff plays a harmonic accompaniment. The bass line of the lower grand staff is highly active with many sixteenth notes. The system concludes with a fermata over a chord in the right hand and a few notes in the left hand.

407

Musical score for measures 407-409. The system consists of two grand staves. The upper grand staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The lower grand staff has a bass clef and a key signature of one flat. The music continues with the same complex rhythmic patterns. The right hand of the upper grand staff has a melodic line with slurs and accents. The left hand of the upper grand staff has a harmonic accompaniment. The bass line of the lower grand staff is highly active with many sixteenth notes. The system concludes with a fermata over a chord in the right hand and a few notes in the left hand.

410

Musical score for measures 410-412. The system consists of two grand staves. The upper grand staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The lower grand staff has a bass clef and a key signature of one flat. The music continues with the same complex rhythmic patterns. The right hand of the upper grand staff has a melodic line with slurs and accents. The left hand of the upper grand staff has a harmonic accompaniment. The bass line of the lower grand staff is highly active with many sixteenth notes. The system concludes with a fermata over a chord in the right hand and a few notes in the left hand.

413

Musical score for measures 413-415. The system consists of two grand staves. The upper grand staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lower grand staff has a bass clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The music features a complex rhythmic pattern with eighth and sixteenth notes, often beamed together. There are several slurs and accents throughout. Measure 415 includes a dynamic marking of  $ff$ .

416

Musical score for measures 416-418. The system consists of two grand staves. The upper grand staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lower grand staff has a bass clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The music continues with complex rhythmic patterns. Measure 418 features a triplet of eighth notes in the bass line and a dynamic marking of  $ff$ .

419

Musical score for measures 419-421. The system consists of two grand staves. The upper grand staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lower grand staff has a bass clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The music continues with complex rhythmic patterns. Measure 421 features a triplet of eighth notes in the bass line and a dynamic marking of  $ff$ .

422  $\text{♩} = 69$

pizz.  $\text{p}$

$\text{p}$

$\text{p}$

$\text{♩} = 69$

426

Ethereal with gentle lilt

arco  $\text{pp}$

con sord. arco solo  $\text{p}$

Ethereal with gentle lilt

$\text{ppp}$

$\text{p}$

$\text{ppp}$

$\text{p}$

$\text{ppp}$

$\text{♩} = 69$

433

con sord.

(8)

(8)

$\text{p}$

$\text{ppp}$

$\text{♩} = 69$

439

8

8

446

8

8

453

8

8

*ppp*

*ppp*

**♩=120 Deliberate**  
senza sord.sul pont.

**♩=60 Dreamily and abstractly**  
con sord.sul tasto

*f* *ppp*

*f* *p* *ppp*

461

*p*

464

466

Musical score for measures 466-471. The system consists of two grand staves. The upper grand staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lower grand staff has a bass clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The music features a complex texture with multiple voices in both hands, including sixteenth and thirty-second notes, and various rests.

469

Musical score for measures 469-475. The system consists of two grand staves. The upper grand staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lower grand staff has a bass clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The music continues with intricate rhythmic patterns and melodic lines.

472

Musical score for measures 472-478. The system consists of two grand staves. The upper grand staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lower grand staff has a bass clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The music concludes with a final cadence. The word "Ped." is written below the first and last measures of this system.

477

pizz.

pizz.

pizz.

*pizz.*

*p*