

John Link

# Piano Quartet

for piano, violin, viola, and cello

## PROGRAM NOTE

My ***Piano Quartet*** is in one continuous movement that lasts about 14 minutes. The declamatory opening, which returns in different guises later in the piece, quickly gives way to a wide variety of often contrapuntal textures. Although the effect of the piece is largely one of continuous flow, there is a distant echo of a more traditional four movement plan. There is an opening allegro (with an extended lyrical melody for viola towards the end) and a fast and lively finale in which short melodic ideas are passed around among the strings. In the middle section of the piece a lighter scherzando, culminating in an extended passage for pizzicato strings, is intercut with episodes of slow music. The quartet was commissioned by the Lincoln Friends of Chamber Music for the Ames Piano Quartet, and is dedicated to both of these groups, and their admirable championing of contemporary American chamber music.

—John Link

Duration: ca. 14 minutes

for the Lincoln Friends of Chamber Music  
and the Ames Piano Quartet

# Piano Quartet

—John Link (2001)

**Allegro** (♩ = 60)

**Violin**

**Viola**

**Cello**

**Piano**

**3**

**pizz.** **arco**

**pizz.** **arco**

**3** **3**

5

Musical score for measures 5-7. The score is written for three staves (Treble, Alto, and Bass) and a grand staff (Treble and Bass). The key signature is B-flat major. The tempo is marked *p* (piano). The dynamics are marked *p* (piano), *mp* (mezzo-piano), and *p* (piano). The music features a complex rhythmic pattern with many sixteenth and thirty-second notes, often beamed together. The grand staff has a more melodic line in the treble and a more rhythmic line in the bass.

8

Musical score for measures 8-11. The score is written for three staves (Treble, Alto, and Bass) and a grand staff (Treble and Bass). The key signature is B-flat major. The tempo is marked *f* (forte). The dynamics are marked *f* (forte), *ff* (fortissimo), *p* (piano), and *f* (forte). The music features a complex rhythmic pattern with many sixteenth and thirty-second notes, often beamed together. The grand staff has a more melodic line in the treble and a more rhythmic line in the bass.

Musical score for measures 11-12. The score is written for a piano with four staves: two for the right hand (treble and alto clefs) and two for the left hand (bass and alto clefs). The key signature has one sharp (F#). The music features a complex, flowing melody with many sixteenth and thirty-second notes, often beamed together. The texture is dense, with multiple voices moving in parallel motion. The first measure of the system contains a whole note, while the second measure contains a half note. The notation includes various accidentals (sharps, flats, naturals) and dynamic markings.

Musical score for measures 13-14. The score continues with the same four-staff piano arrangement. Measure 13 begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic marking. The music features several triplet markings (indicated by a '3' over a bracket) and a 'pizz.' (pizzicato) marking. Measure 14 includes an 'arco' (arco) marking and a 'p' (piano) dynamic marking. The score concludes with a forte (*f*) dynamic marking and a crescendo hairpin. The notation includes various accidentals and dynamic markings.

15

Violin I: *mf*, *pizz.*, *arco*, *mf*

Violin II: *mf*, *pizz.*, *arco*, *mf*

Viola: *mf*, *pizz.*, *arco*, *mf*

Cello/Bass: *p*, *f*, *p*

17

Violin I: *f*, *p*

Violin II: *f*, *p*

Viola: *f*, *p*

Cello/Bass: *p*, *f*



23

Violin I: *p*, *mp*

Violin II: *p*, *mp*

Viola: *p*, *p*  $\rightarrow$  *mp*  $\rightarrow$  *mf* (pizz.)

Cello/Double Bass: *p*, *mp*, *mf*

25

Violin I: *mf*, *f non troppo* (cantabile)

Violin II: *mf*, *f non troppo* (cantabile)

Viola: arco, *mf*, *mf* (espr.)

Cello/Double Bass: *mf*, *mf*



27

mf

mf

mf

29

mp

mp cresc.

espr.

f

mf

mf

mp

mf

f



35

pizz.

*f*

pizz.

*f*

36

arco

arco

37

pizz.

arco detached

*p*

pizz.

arco detached

*p*

pizz.

*mp*

*p*

39

*f* *mp* *p* *mp*

*f* *mp*

arco pizz.

*mf* *p*

arco

*mp*

*p* *mf* *mp* *mf*

*mf*

41

Musical score for measures 41-42. The score is written for piano (p), violin (v), and cello (c). The piano part features a complex rhythmic pattern with triplets and slurs. The violin and cello parts have melodic lines with triplets and slurs. Dynamic markings include *mf* (mezzo-forte) and *p* (piano).

42

Continuation of the musical score for measures 42-43. The piano part continues with complex rhythmic patterns and triplets. The violin and cello parts have melodic lines with triplets and slurs. Dynamic markings include *mp* (mezzo-piano), *p* (piano), *mf* (mezzo-forte), and *f* (forte).

44

44

45

*f* *p* *mf*

*f*

*mf*

*f*

*f*

46

46

47

*p* *mf* *p* *f*

*p*

*p* *mf* *p* *f*

*f*

(to m. 59)

48

*p*

*mf*

*mp*

*mf*

8va-

50

*mp*

*p* < *mf* > *p*

*mf* >

*mp*

*f*

*mp*

*mf* > *p* > *mf* >

*mp*

*p*

*p* < *mf* > *p*

*mf* > *mp*

53

Measures 53-55 of a musical score. The score is written for three staves: Treble, Bass, and Piano. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). Measure 53 features a piano (*p*) melody in the Treble staff and a bass line in the Bass staff. Measure 54 features a mezzo-forte (*mf*) melody in the Treble staff and a mezzo-piano (*mp*) melody in the Bass staff. Measure 55 features a piano (*p*) melody in the Treble staff and a mezzo-forte (*mf*) melody in the Bass staff.

56

Measures 56-58 of a musical score. The score is written for three staves: Treble, Bass, and Piano. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). Measure 56 features a mezzo-forte (*mf*) melody in the Treble staff and a mezzo-piano (*mp*) melody in the Bass staff. Measure 57 features a mezzo-forte (*mf*) melody in the Treble staff and a mezzo-forte (*mf*) melody in the Bass staff. Measure 58 features a piano (*p*) melody in the Treble staff and a mezzo-piano (*mp*) melody in the Bass staff. The score includes various musical notations such as triplets, slurs, and dynamic markings.



Musical score for measures 59-61. The score is written for three staves (treble, alto, and bass) and a grand staff (treble and bass). It features complex rhythmic patterns with triplets and slurs. Dynamics include *f*, *mp*, *p*, and *mf*. A "8va" marking is present in the first staff of the grand staff.

Musical score for measures 62-64. The score is written for three staves (treble, alto, and bass) and a grand staff (treble and bass). It features complex rhythmic patterns with triplets and slurs. Dynamics include *mf*, *p*, and *mp*. An "espr." marking is present in the third staff of the grand staff.

64

*mf* *ff* *mf* *mp* *mf* *molto espr.* *f* *mf* *3* *6* *3* *3*

66

*mf* *sub. p* *pizz.* *f* *(mf)* *sub. p* *mp* *3* *6* *3* *3* *3*

68

arco

*mf*

*mp*

*f*

*mf*

*f*

*f*

*mp*

*f*

*f*

*mp*

*f*

*mp*

8va

*f*

*mp*

*f*

*mp*

70

*p* *mf* *p* *mp*

*p* *mf* *p* *mp*

*p* *mf* *p* *mp* *mf*

*8va*

*mf* *f*

*p*

## 72

## Scherzando

76

80

Musical score for measures 80-83. The score is in 3/4 time and features a piano (p) and mezzo-forte (mf) dynamic range. The upper staves (treble and bass clef) show complex rhythmic patterns with triplets and slurs. The lower staves (treble and bass clef) show simpler rhythmic patterns. The score includes various dynamic markings such as *mf*, *p*, *mp*, and *mf dim.* The key signature has one flat (B-flat).

84

Musical score for measures 84-87. The score is in 3/4 time and features a piano (p) and mezzo-forte (mf) dynamic range. The upper staves (treble and bass clef) show complex rhythmic patterns with triplets and slurs. The lower staves (treble and bass clef) show simpler rhythmic patterns. The score includes various dynamic markings such as *p*, *f*, and *mf*. The key signature has one flat (B-flat).



98

sord.

pizz.

sord.

pizz.

sord.

*mf*

Adagio

con sord.

102

*mp*

*p*

*pp*

*mp* >

arco con sord.

*mp*

*p*

*pp*

*mp* >

arco con sord.

*mp*

*p*

*pp*

*mp* >

Adagio

*f*

*p*

*pp*

*mp*

*pp* < *p*

106

106

pizz. arco

*pp mp p mp*

pizz. arco

*pp mp p mp*

pizz. arco

*pp mp p mp*

*mp pp p mp*

109

pizz. arco

*mf p mp*

*mf p mp*

*mf p mp*

*mf p mp*

*mf p mp*

*mf p mp*



112

via sord.

*mp*

*p*

via sord.

via sord.

*mp*

*p*

*mp*

*p*

broadly, quasi-rubato

*mf*

115

117

senza sord.

*f*-*mf* *f*

senza sord.

*f*-*mf* *f*

senza sord.

*f*-*mf* *f*

*mf* *f*

*mf* *f*

119

pizz. arco

*mf* *f*

pizz. arco

*mf* *f*

pizz. arco

*mf* *f*

*mp* *ff*

*mf* *f*

*f* *ff*

122 **Scherzando**

*f* *mf* *mp* *pizz.* *arco*

*f* *mf* *mp* *p* *mp* *pizz.* *arco*

*f* *mf* *p* *pizz.* *arco*

**Scherzando**

*mf* *6* *6*

124

*f* *p* *p* *pizz.* *mp* *arco* *pizz.* *mp* *pizz.* *mp*

*f* *p* *mp* *p* *mp* *p* *mp* *pizz.* *mp*

*f* *p* *mp* *pizz.* *mp*

*f* *mf* *mp*

Musical score for measures 127-130. The score is for a string quartet with two violins, two violas, and a cello. It features complex rhythmic patterns with triplets and sixteenth notes. Dynamics include *mf*, *mp*, *p*, and *mf dim.* Performance instructions include *arco* and *espr.*

Musical score for measures 130-133. The score continues the string quartet. It features sustained notes and triplet patterns. Dynamics include *pp* and *mp*. Performance instructions include *espr.*

132

pizz. scherz.

Musical score for measures 132-134. The score is for a piano and violin. The piano part has three staves: Treble, Bass, and Grand Staff. The violin part has one staff. The piano part features complex rhythmic patterns with triplets and sextuplets. The violin part has a melodic line with triplets. Dynamics include *p*, *f*, *mp*, and *mf*. The tempo/mood is marked *pizz. scherz.*.

135

Musical score for measures 135-137. The score is for a piano and violin. The piano part has three staves: Treble, Bass, and Grand Staff. The violin part has one staff. The piano part features complex rhythmic patterns with triplets and sextuplets. The violin part has a melodic line with triplets. Dynamics include *f*, *mp*, and *mf*. The tempo/mood is marked *pizz. scherz.*.

138

## Adagio

arco

String section score for measures 138-139. The section consists of Violin I, Violin II, and Viola. All three parts play a triplet of eighth notes, starting on a B-flat in the first measure and moving up to a D-flat in the second measure. The dynamics are marked *pp* (pianissimo) in the first measure and *mp* (mezzo-piano) in the second measure, with a *dim.* (diminuendo) hairpin in the Viola part.

## Adagio

Piano score for measures 138-139. The right hand plays a triplet of eighth notes starting on a B-flat, moving up to a D-flat. The left hand plays a triplet of eighth notes starting on a B-flat, moving up to a D-flat. The dynamics are marked *p* (piano) in the right hand and *mf* (mezzo-forte) in the left hand. The tempo is marked *Adagio*.

140

String and piano score for measures 140-141. The string section (Violin I, Violin II, Viola) plays a triplet of eighth notes starting on a B-flat, moving up to a D-flat. The piano part features complex triplet patterns in both hands, with various accidentals and dynamics including *pp* (pianissimo) and *p* (piano).

142

Musical score for measures 142-143. The score is for a piano and violin/viola. The piano part has three staves (treble, alto, and bass). The violin/viola part has one staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The tempo is Scherzando. The dynamics are *mp*, *p*, and *mf*. The violin/viola part has a melodic line with a trill in measure 143. The piano part has a complex rhythmic pattern with triplets and sixteenth notes.

144

Musical score for measures 144-145. The score is for a piano and violin/viola. The piano part has three staves (treble, alto, and bass). The violin/viola part has one staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The tempo is Scherzando. The dynamics are *mp*, *p*, and *mf*. The violin/viola part has a melodic line with a trill in measure 145. The piano part has a complex rhythmic pattern with triplets and sixteenth notes.

147

Violin I: *p* (measures 147-149)

Violin II: *arco* *mf* (measure 147), *f* (measure 148), *pizz.* *p* (measure 149)

Cello/Bass: *arco* *mf* (measure 147), *f* (measure 148), *pizz.* *p* (measure 149)

Piano: *p* (measure 147), *mf* (measure 148)

150

Violin I: *p* (measure 150), *mf* (measure 151)

Violin II: *p* (measure 150), *mf* (measure 151)

Cello/Bass: *p* (measure 150), *mf* (measure 151)

Piano: *p* (measure 150), *mf* (measure 151)



152

Musical score for measures 152-153. The score is in 3/4 time and features a complex piano arrangement with triplets and dynamic markings.

**Measure 152:**

- Staff 1 (Treble):** Starts with a triplet of eighth notes (G4, A4, B4) marked *mf*. The measure continues with a triplet of eighth notes (C5, B4, A4) and a triplet of eighth notes (G4, F4, E4).
- Staff 2 (Alto):** Features a triplet of eighth notes (G4, A4, B4) marked *mf*, followed by a triplet of eighth notes (C5, B4, A4) marked *p*, and a triplet of eighth notes (G4, F4, E4) marked *mf*.
- Staff 3 (Bass):** Features a triplet of eighth notes (G4, A4, B4) marked *mf*.

**Measure 153:**

- Staff 1 (Treble):** Starts with a triplet of eighth notes (G4, A4, B4) marked *f*, followed by a triplet of eighth notes (C5, B4, A4) marked *mf*, and a triplet of eighth notes (G4, F4, E4) marked *mf*.
- Staff 2 (Alto):** Features a triplet of eighth notes (G4, A4, B4) marked *f*, followed by a triplet of eighth notes (C5, B4, A4) marked *f*, and a triplet of eighth notes (G4, F4, E4) marked *mp*.
- Staff 3 (Bass):** Features a triplet of eighth notes (G4, A4, B4) marked *mf*.

**Measure 154:**

- Staff 1 (Treble):** Features a triplet of eighth notes (G4, A4, B4) marked *p*.
- Staff 2 (Alto):** Features a triplet of eighth notes (G4, A4, B4) marked *p*.
- Staff 3 (Bass):** Features a triplet of eighth notes (G4, A4, B4) marked *p*.

154

Musical score for measures 154-155. The score is in 3/4 time and features a complex piano arrangement with triplets and dynamic markings.

**Measure 154:**

- Staff 1 (Treble):** Starts with a triplet of eighth notes (G4, A4, B4) marked *f*, followed by a triplet of eighth notes (C5, B4, A4) marked *f*, and a triplet of eighth notes (G4, F4, E4) marked *f*.
- Staff 2 (Alto):** Features a triplet of eighth notes (G4, A4, B4) marked *f*, followed by a triplet of eighth notes (C5, B4, A4) marked *f*, and a triplet of eighth notes (G4, F4, E4) marked *f*.
- Staff 3 (Bass):** Features a triplet of eighth notes (G4, A4, B4) marked *f*.

**Measure 155:**

- Staff 1 (Treble):** Features a triplet of eighth notes (G4, A4, B4) marked *p*.
- Staff 2 (Alto):** Features a triplet of eighth notes (G4, A4, B4) marked *p*.
- Staff 3 (Bass):** Features a triplet of eighth notes (G4, A4, B4) marked *p*.

Musical score for measures 156-158. The score is in 3/4 time and features a piano with three staves (treble, alto, and bass) and a grand staff (treble and bass). The piano part includes triplets and various dynamics. The grand staff part includes triplets and various dynamics.

Dynamics: *f*, *ff*, *f*, *p*, *f*, *ff*, *f*, *f*, *mf*, *p*, *p*, *mp*, *f*, *ff*.

Musical score for measures 159-162. The score is in 3/4 time and features a piano with three staves (treble, alto, and bass) and a grand staff (treble and bass). The piano part includes triplets and various dynamics. The grand staff part includes triplets and various dynamics.

Dynamics: *cresc.*, *cresc.*, *p*, *cresc.*, *mp*, *cresc.*, *staccato*, *mf*, *f*, *f*, *f*.

161

161

dim. *p*

dim. *p*

dim. *p*

*mf* >

163

Adagio

*p* *pp* *p* *pp* *p*

*p* *pp* *p* *pp* *p*

*p* *pp* *pp*

Adagio

> *p* *mf* *p* *mp* *p*

167

pizz. arco

*pp* *mp* *p*

pizz. arco

*pp* *p* *mp* *p*

espr.

*mp* *p*

*mp* *p*

170

*mf* dim. *p* *mf* cresc. *f*

*mf* dim. *p* *mf* *f*

*mf* *f*

*mf* *f*

173

Measures 173-176 musical score. The score is in 3/4 time. Measures 173-175 are for a string quartet (Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Cello/Double Bass). Measure 176 is for a piano. Dynamics include *p*, *mp*, and *mf*. Trills and triplets are marked.

177

Measures 177-179 musical score. The score is in 3/4 time. Measures 177-178 are for a string quartet. Measure 179 is for a piano. Dynamics include *mp*, *p*, and *f*. Trills and triplets are marked.

179

Violin I staff: *mp*, *p*, *mp*

Violin II staff: *mp*, *p*

Piano staff: *mp*, *p*

183

183

*p* *mp* *mp*

*p* *mp* *mf* *mp*

*p* *mp* *mp*

*mp*

*cresc.*

186 Allegro vivo (♩ = 120)

Musical score for measures 186-188. The top system consists of three staves (treble, alto, and bass clefs) with a crescendo hairpin. The first staff has a *mf* dynamic at the start and a *f* dynamic at the end. The second and third staves also have *mf* and *f* dynamics. The bottom system consists of two staves (treble and bass clefs) with a *f* dynamic. The tempo is marked Allegro vivo (♩ = 120). The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The music features a mix of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some triplets indicated by a '3' over the notes.

189

Musical score for measures 189-191. The top system consists of three staves (treble, alto, and bass clefs). The first two staves are marked *pizz.* (pizzicato) and *f*. The third staff is marked *arco* (arco) and *f*. The bottom system consists of two staves (treble and bass clefs). The first staff is marked *f* and the second staff is marked *f*. The tempo is marked Allegro vivo (♩ = 120). The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The music features a mix of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some triplets indicated by a '3' over the notes.

192

8va -

8va -

195



198 pizz.

arco

*p*

201

$$mf$$

204

pizz. arco

*mf* *f* *mf*

pizz. arco

*mf* *f* *mf*

pizz. arco

*mf* *f*

*mp* *f*

*mf*

207

arco

*p* *mp* *p*

arco

*p* *f*

*p* *mp*

210

*mf* *f* *p* *f* *p* *cresc.*

213

*f* *mp* *loco* *8va* *8va* *loco* *8va* *loco* *f* *dim.*

216

Musical score for measures 216-218. The score is in 3/4 time and features a piano and violin. The piano part has a treble and bass staff. The violin part has a single staff. Dynamics include *mf*, *p*, *f*, and *cresc.*. The violin part has a trill marked "8va" and "loco".

219

Musical score for measures 219-220. The score is in 3/4 time and features a piano and violin. The piano part has a treble and bass staff. The violin part has a single staff. Dynamics include *p* and *cresc.*. The piano part has triplets in both staves.

221

*f*

*mp*

*mf*

*f*

*ff*

223

*ff-f*

*ff-f*

*f*

226

*ff* *ff* pesante *ff* pesante *ff* pesante

*ff* *f*

229

*ff* *ff* pesante *ff* pesante *ff* pesante

*ff* *f*

232

Musical score for measures 232-234. The score is in 3/4 time and features a complex melodic line in the right hand and a more rhythmic accompaniment in the left hand. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat). Measure 232 shows a triplet of eighth notes in the right hand and a triplet of eighth notes in the left hand. Measure 233 continues the melodic development. Measure 234 features a triplet of eighth notes in the right hand and a triplet of eighth notes in the left hand. The score is written for a grand staff with treble and bass clefs.

235

Musical score for measures 235-237. The score is in 3/4 time and features a complex melodic line in the right hand and a more rhythmic accompaniment in the left hand. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat). Measure 235 shows a triplet of eighth notes in the right hand and a triplet of eighth notes in the left hand. Measure 236 continues the melodic development. Measure 237 features a triplet of eighth notes in the right hand and a triplet of eighth notes in the left hand. The score is written for a grand staff with treble and bass clefs. Dynamics include *f* (forte) and *ff* (fortissimo).

238

fp

fp

f

242

pizz.

mp

pp

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