

Commissioned by, and written especially for, Chamber Music Palisades
Delores Stevens and Susan Greenberg, Artistic Directors
And dedicated to Conrad Susa, the Master of Musical Alchemy, on his seventieth birthday

VARIATIONES ALCHEMISTICAE

flute, viola, violoncello and piano (2005 - ca. 27')

Thema: Prima Materia

Byron ADAMS (*1955)

Moderato (♩ = 68 - 70)

Flute

Viola

Cello

Piano

pizz., quasi guitarra
p leggero e secco
p
p
p

like an incantation
mp

Moderato (♩ = 68 - 70)

misterioso
p
p
p

6

Fl.

Vla.

Vc.

niente
mp
mp
Sul D
p

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+41 (0)21 909 1000 (Phone) - +41 (0)21 909 1009 (Fax)
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10

Fl. *mp*

Vla. *niente* *mp*

Vc.

14

Fl. *mp*

Vla. *mp*

Vc.

18

poco rall. *A tempo* *cold and remote* *p*

Fl. *cold and remote* *p*

Vla. *cold and remote* *p*

Vc. *arco, sul D* *like a distant knell*

poco rall. *A tempo* *pp*

Red. una corda *Red.*

23 rall.

Fl. rall.

Vla. rall.

Vc. rall.

pizz.

niente

Operatio I: Solutio (By Water)

Meno mosso accel. poco a poco

Fl. niente

Vla. niente

Vc. accel. poco a poco

Meno mosso L.H.

tentative

mp *pp* *mp*

Ped. *Ped.*

Moderato; flowing (♩ = ca. 118 - 120)

glistening

3

mp leggero

Ped. *Ped.* *Ped.* *Ped.*

L.H.

5

Vc. *arco*
mp

Ped.

7

Vc. *mf* *mf* ben cantando, ardent

mp

9

Vc. *mf*

11

Vc.

13

Fl. *mf* ben cantando

Vla. *mf* ben cantando

Vc. *pp*

15

Fl.

Vla.

17

Fl.

Vla.

Vc. *pizz.* *mf*

19

Fl.

Vla.

Vc.

21

Fl.

Vla.

Vc.

pizz.

mf

23

Fl.

Vla.

Vc.

cresc.

40

Vc.

A musical score for Violoncello (Vc.) in E-flat major, 3/4 time. The score consists of two systems. The first system has a measure with a whole rest, followed by a measure with a half note G3, a quarter note A3, and a quarter note B3, all marked *mf*. The second system begins with a long slur over a series of eighth notes: G3, A3, B3, C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F5, G5, A5, B5, C6, D6, E6, F6, G6, A6, B6, C7, D7, E7, F7, G7, A7, B7, C8, D8, E8, F8, G8, A8, B8, C9, D9, E9, F9, G9, A9, B9, C10, D10, E10, F10, G10, A10, B10, C11, D11, E11, F11, G11, A11, B11, C12, D12, E12, F12, G12, A12, B12, C13, D13, E13, F13, G13, A13, B13, C14, D14, E14, F14, G14, A14, B14, C15, D15, E15, F15, G15, A15, B15, C16, D16, E16, F16, G16, A16, B16, C17, D17, E17, F17, G17, A17, B17, C18, D18, E18, F18, G18, A18, B18, C19, D19, E19, F19, G19, A19, B19, C20, D20, E20, F20, G20, A20, B20, C21, D21, E21, F21, G21, A21, B21, C22, D22, E22, F22, G22, A22, B22, C23, D23, E23, F23, G23, A23, B23, C24, D24, E24, F24, G24, A24, B24, C25, D25, E25, F25, G25, A25, B25, C26, D26, E26, F26, G26, A26, B26, C27, D27, E27, F27, G27, A27, B27, C28, D28, E28, F28, G28, A28, B28, C29, D29, E29, F29, G29, A29, B29, C30, D30, E30, F30, G30, A30, B30, C31, D31, E31, F31, G31, A31, B31, C32, D32, E32, F32, G32, A32, B32, C33, D33, E33, F33, G33, A33, B33, C34, D34, E34, F34, G34, A34, B34, C35, D35, E35, F35, G35, A35, B35, C36, D36, E36, F36, G36, A36, B36, C37, D37, E37, F37, G37, A37, B37, C38, D38, E38, F38, G38, A38, B38, C39, D39, E39, F39, G39, A39, B39, C40, D40, E40, F40, G40, A40, B40, C41, D41, E41, F41, G41, A41, B41, C42, D42, E42, F42, G42, A42, B42, C43, D43, E43, F43, G43, A43, B43, C44, D44, E44, F44, G44, A44, B44, C45, D45, E45, F45, G45, A45, B45, C46, D46, E46, F46, G46, A46, B46, C47, D47, E47, F47, G47, A47, B47, C48, D48, E48, F48, G48, A48, B48, C49, D49, E49, F49, G49, A49, B49, C50, D50, E50, F50, G50, A50, B50, C51, D51, E51, F51, G51, A51, B51, C52, D52, E52, F52, G52, A52, B52, C53, D53, E53, F53, G53, A53, B53, C54, D54, E54, F54, G54, A54, B54, C55, D55, E55, F55, G55, A55, B55, C56, D56, E56, F56, G56, A56, B56, C57, D57, E57, F57, G57, A57, B57, C58, D58, E58, F58, G58, A58, B58, C59, D59, E59, F59, G59, A59, B59, C60, D60, E60, F60, G60, A60, B60, C61, D61, E61, F61, G61, A61, B61, C62, D62, E62, F62, G62, A62, B62, C63, D63, E63, F63, G63, A63, B63, C64, D64, E64, F64, G64, A64, B64, C65, D65, E65, F65, G65, A65, B65, C66, D66, E66, F66, G66, A66, B66, C67, D67, E67, F67, G67, A67, B67, C68, D68, E68, F68, G68, A68, B68, C69, D69, E69, F69, G69, A69, B69, C70, D70, E70, F70, G70, A70, B70, C71, D71, E71, F71, G71, A71, B71, C72, D72, E72, F72, G72, A72, B72, C73, D73, E73, F73, G73, A73, B73, C74, D74, E74, F74, G74, A74, B74, C75, D75, E75, F75, G75, A75, B75, C76, D76, E76, F76, G76, A76, B76, C77, D77, E77, F77, G77, A77, B77, C78, D78, E78, F78, G78, A78, B78, C79, D79, E79, F79, G79, A79, B79, C80, D80, E80, F80, G80, A80, B80, C81, D81, E81, F81, G81, A81, B81, C82, D82, E82, F82, G82, A82, B82, C83, D83, E83, F83, G83, A83, B83, C84, D84, E84, F84, G84, A84, B84, C85, D85, E85, F85, G85, A85, B85, C86, D86, E86, F86, G86, A86, B86, C87, D87, E87, F87, G87, A87, B87, C88, D88, E88, F88, G88, A88, B88, C89, D89, E89, F89, G89, A89, B89, C90, D90, E90, F90, G90, A90, B90, C91, D91, E91, F91, G91, A91, B91, C92, D92, E92, F92, G92, A92, B92, C93, D93, E93, F93, G93, A93, B93, C94, D94, E94, F94, G94, A94, B94, C95, D95, E95, F95, G95, A95, B95, C96, D96, E96, F96, G96, A96, B96, C97, D97, E97, F97, G97, A97, B97, C98, D98, E98, F98, G98, A98, B98, C99, D99, E99, F99, G99, A99, B99, C100, D100, E100, F100, G100, A100, B100, C101, D101, E101, F101, G101, A101, B101, C102, D102, E102, F102, G102, A102, B102, C103, D103, E103, F103, G103, A103, B103, C104, D104, E104, F104, G104, A104, B104, C105, D105, E105, F105, G105, A105, B105, C106, D106, E106, F106, G106, A106, B106, C107, D107, E107, F107, G107, A107, B107, C108, D108, E108, F108, G108, A108, B108, C109, D109, E109, F109, G109, A109, B109, C110, D110, E110, F110, G110, A110, B110, C111, D111, E111, F111, G111, A111, B111, C112, D112, E112, F112, G112, A112, B112, C113, D113, E113, F113, G113, A113, B113, C114, D114, E114, F114, G114, A114, B114, C115, D115, E115, F115, G115, A115, B115, C116, D116, E116, F116, G116, A116, B116, C117, D117, E117, F117, G117, A117, B117, C118, D118, E118, F118, G118, A118, B118, C119, D119, E119, F119, G119, A119, B119, C120, D120, E120, F120, G120, A120, B120, C121, D121, E121, F121, G121, A121, B121, C122, D122, E122, F122, G122, A122, B122, C123, D123, E123, F123, G123, A123, B123, C124, D124, E124, F124, G124, A124, B124, C125, D125, E125, F125, G125, A125, B125, C126, D126, E126, F126, G126, A126, B126, C127, D127, E127, F127, G127, A127, B127, C128, D128, E128, F128, G128, A128, B128, C129, D129, E129, F129, G129, A129, B129, C130, D130, E130, F130, G130, A130, B130, C131, D131, E131, F131, G131, A131, B131, C132, D132, E132, F132, G132, A132, B132, C133, D133, E133, F133, G133, A133, B133, C134, D134, E134, F134, G134, A134, B134, C135, D135, E135, F135, G135, A135, B135, C136, D136, E136, F136, G136, A136, B136, C137, D137, E137, F137, G137, A13

Operatio II: Sublimatio (By Air)

Allegro scherzando, ma misterioso (♩ = ca. 52 - 54; in one)

Fl. *mocking*
f
mp *leggero*; *f*
3
pizz.

Vla. *mocking*
f
arco
f
pizz.

Vc. *f*
f
arco
f
pizz.

Allegro scherzando, ma misterioso (♩. = ca. 52 - 54; in one)

9

Fl.

Vla.

p

arco

mp *leggero; frivolous and cold*

p

p *serpentine; l*

15

Fl. *p*

Vla. *p*

Vc. *p* *leggero; frivolous and cold*

8^{vb}

21

Fl. *mf*

Vla. *pizz.* *mf* *sfz*

Vc. *mf* *sfz*

mf *sfz* *sfz* *sfz*

(8)

26

Fl. *mf* *f*

Vla. *solo* *f*

Vc. *mf* *f*

f

(8)

32

Fl.

Vla.

Vc.

37

Fl.

Vla.

Vc.

42

Fl.

Vla.

Vc.

coldly brilliant

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Fl. *poco rall.* *A tempo*
pp

Vla. *p* *pp*

Vc. *p* *pp*

poco rall. *A tempo*
p *pp*

(8)

100

Fl. *rall. poco a poco*
ppp

Vla. *pizz.* *via sord.*
ppp

Vc. *pizz.* *via sord.*
ppp

rall. poco a poco
ppp

(8)

Operatio III: Coagulatio (By Earth)

Largo; maestoso ma sempre movendo (♩ = ca. 42 - 44)

Fl.

Vla.

Vc.

Largo; maestoso ma sempre movendo (♩ = ca. 42 - 44)

mf *sostenuto, solenn* *bring out moving inner voices*

like a deep bell tolling

sost. Ped. *sost. Ped.*

5

Fl. *mf* *arco (senza sord.)*

Vla. *mf* *arco (senza sord.)*

Vc. *mf*

mf

sost. Ped.

9

Fl. *mf* *mp* *p*

Vla. *mf* *mp* *p* *mf*

Vc. *mf* *mp* *p* *mf*

mf

sost. Ped. *dim.*

13

Vla. *mp* *p* *rall. m*

Vc. *mp* *p* *rall. r*

sost. Ped. *sost. Ped.*

17 Più largo, solemne ♩ = ca. 68

Vla. *mf* legato; cantabile e espressivo

Vc. *mp* quasi guitarra

Più largo, solemne ♩ = ca. 68

p

22

Vla. *f* *mf*

Vc. *mp* *p*

27

Vla. *f* *mf* poco rall. A tempo *mf*

Vc. *mf* *mp* *p* poco rall. A tempo

92

Fl. *rall. molto*

Vla. *pizz.*

Vc. *pizz.*

rall. molto

pesante

3

Operatio IV: Calcinatio (By Fire)

Allegro molto quasi presto; con fuoco (♩. = ca. 160-162)

Fl. *fluttertongue*

Vla. *arco, sul pont.*

Vc. *arco, sul pont.*

Allegro molto quasi presto; con fuoco (♩. = ca. 160-162)

f

Ped.

5

Ped.

Ped.

9

Fl.

Vla.

Vc.

Ped.

12

Fl.

Vla.

Vc.

ord., pizz.
f sfz
ord., pizz.
f sfz

16

Fl.

Vla.

Vc.

f capricious and sardonic

21

Fl.

Vla.

Vc.

25

Fl.

Vla.

Vc.

29

Fl.

Vla.

Vc.

f capricious and sardonic

f staccatissimo e leggero, dry

33

Fl. *arco*

Vla.

Vc.

f

37

Fl.

Vla.

Vc.

arco

41

Fl. *mp* singing; a bit too sweet

Vla. *mp* singing; a bit too sweet

Vc. *p* *leggero*

p dry, like a timpani stroke

una corda

244 senza rall.

Fl. *sfz*

Vla. *sfz*

Vc. *sfz*

senza rall.

Operatio V: Mortificatio (By Suffering)

Adagio lamentoso (♩ = ca. 60 - 63)

Vla. *arco, con sord.*

Vc. *arco, con sord.*

fff lacerating

fff lacerating

Adagio lamentoso (♩ = ca. 60 - 63)

fff molto pesante; implacable and cruel

laissez vib.

sost. ped.

Ped.

8

Vla. *fff*

Vc. *fff*

ff

sost.

36

Fl.

mf *f* *mf*

l.v. until silence

41

Fl.

mp *poch. rall.*

poch. rall.

Finale: Coniunctio (Reconciliation)

Largo maestoso [♩ = ca. 52]

Fl.

ppp

Largo maestoso [♩ = ca. 52]

p serene; with unhurried dignity

6

Vc.

senza sord.
warm, legato

p *p* *mp*

introspective

11

Fl.

Vla.

Vc.

16

Fl.

Vla.

Vc.

20

Fl.

Vla.

Vc.

24

Fl. *mf* *mp* niente

Vla. *mf* ben cantando

Vc. *mf* ben cantando

mp

27

Vla.

Vc.

30

Vla. *mf* subito sul tasto; flautando

Vc. *mf* subito sul tasto; flautando

sub. f refulgent, bring out inner voices

sost. like deep, tolling bells

sost.

33

Vla. *tr.*

Vc. *tr.*

sim.

35

Fl. *rall.*

Vla. *tr.*

Vc. *tr.*

rall.

37

Fl. *Più mosso (♩ = ca. 118)*

Vla. *ord. f*

Vc. *ord. f*

Più mosso (♩ = ca. 118)

ff ecstatic

l.v.

8^{va} Ped.

Ped.