

the space behind the breath

Anna Meadors

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Duration: c. 7'

for string quartet

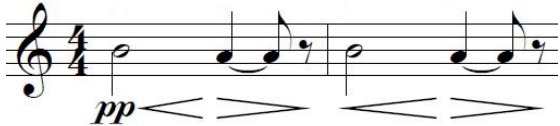
the space behind the breath

Program Note

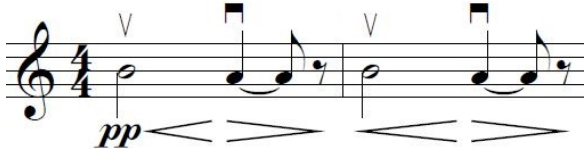
the space behind the breath mirrors the rhythm of breathing slowly and calmly, as if during a meditation. The pauses in the music suspend time. Holding your breath briefly after filling your lungs, you become aware that the lungs not only expand forward with air but also back, into the space behind them. It then transforms. The piece gains momentum; sudden bursts push through the quiet. Eventually, the music returns to the calm feeling of the beginning, but now with harmonics...what was light is now even lighter.

Performance Note

The 'breathing' motive found throughout the piece,



should be played starting with an up bow followed by a down bow to follow the dynamic arc, wherever possible, as such:



the space behind the breath

Score

Anna Meadors

♩=76, lightly, with a breathing rhythm

Violin 1

Violin 2

Viola

Cello

7

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

A

breathy, barely there

ppp

pp

ppp

pp

13

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

pp

pp

B

the space behind the breath

19

Vln. 1 *n.* *pp*

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

C

25

Vln. 1 *G.P.* *p*

Vln. 2 *pp* *p*

Vla. *p*

Vlc. *p*

31

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

D

Musical score for measures 37-40. The score is for four staves: Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., and Vlc. The time signature changes from 4/4 to 3/4 and back to 4/4. The Vln. 1 part has a dynamic marking of *p* in measure 40. The Vln. 2 part also has a dynamic marking of *p* in measure 40. The Vla. and Vlc. parts have various articulation marks.

E

Musical score for measures 41-45. The score is for four staves: Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., and Vlc. The time signature changes from 4/4 to 5/4 and back to 4/4. The Vln. 1 part has a dynamic marking of *p* in measure 41. The Vln. 2 part has a dynamic marking of *p* in measure 41. The Vla. and Vlc. parts have various articulation marks.

46

Musical score for measures 46-49. The score is for four staves: Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., and Vlc. The time signature changes from 4/4 to 5/4 and back to 4/4. The Vln. 1 part has a dynamic marking of *p* in measure 46. The Vln. 2 part has a dynamic marking of *p* in measure 46. The Vla. and Vlc. parts have various articulation marks.

50

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

p

55

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

F

60

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

G

65

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Violin 1: Treble clef, continuous eighth-note pattern with slurs and hairpins. Violin 2: Treble clef, eighth-note pattern with slurs and hairpins, starting with a *p* dynamic. Viola: Treble clef, eighth-note pattern with slurs and hairpins. Violoncello: Bass clef, eighth-note pattern with slurs and hairpins.

68

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

H

Violin 1: Treble clef, eighth-note pattern with slurs and hairpins. Violin 2: Treble clef, eighth-note pattern with slurs and hairpins, starting with a *p sub.* dynamic. Viola: Treble clef, eighth-note pattern with slurs and hairpins. Violoncello: Bass clef, eighth-note pattern with slurs and hairpins. A box containing the letter 'H' is positioned above the first measure of this system. Dynamics include *f sub.* in measures 69 and 70.

71

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Violin 1: Treble clef, eighth-note pattern with slurs and hairpins. Violin 2: Treble clef, eighth-note pattern with slurs and hairpins. Viola: Treble clef, eighth-note pattern with slurs and hairpins. Violoncello: Bass clef, eighth-note pattern with slurs and hairpins. Time signatures change from 3/4 to 4/4 in measure 74. Dynamics include *f* in measures 73 and 74.

75

Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.

This system contains measures 75 through 78. It features four staves: Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, and Violoncello. The music is in 4/4 time. Measure 75 starts with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. Measures 76 and 77 have a 5/4 time signature, and measure 78 returns to 4/4. The score includes various note values, rests, and phrasing slurs.

I

Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.

This system contains measures 79 through 81. It features four staves: Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, and Violoncello. The music is in 4/4 time. The score includes dynamic markings such as *f* and *f^v*, and various note values and phrasing slurs.

J

82

Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.

This system contains measures 82 through 84. It features four staves: Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, and Violoncello. The music is in 4/4 time. Measure 82 starts with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. Measures 83 and 84 have a 3/4 time signature. The score includes dynamic markings such as *p*, *f sub.*, and *p sub.*, and various note values and phrasing slurs.

86

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

f *p* *f* *p*

f *p* *f* *p*

f *p* *f* *p*

f *p* *f* *p*

90

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

f *p* *f* *p* *pp*

f *p* *f* *p* *pp*

f *p* *f* *p* *pp*

f *p* *f* *p* *pp*

K

95

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

pp

101

Vln. 1 *pp*

Vln. 2 *pp*

Vla. *pp* breathy, barely there n.

Vlc. *pp* breathy, barely there n.

107

Vln. 1 *pp*

Vln. 2 *pp*

Vla. *pp*

Vlc. *pp*

112

Vln. 1 *pp* n.

Vln. 2 *pp* n.

Vla. *pp* n.

Vlc. *pp* n.

118

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

pp

pp

pp

p

pp

n.

n.

n.

n.

Detailed description: This musical score page, numbered 118, is titled "the space behind the breath". It contains four staves: Vln. 1 (Violin I), Vln. 2 (Violin II), Vla. (Viola), and Vlc. (Violoncello). The Vln. 1 staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. It contains a series of long, sustained notes, starting with a *pp* dynamic. The Vln. 2 staff also begins with a treble clef and contains similar long, sustained notes, also starting with a *pp* dynamic. The Vla. staff uses an alto clef and contains long, sustained notes, starting with a *pp* dynamic. The Vlc. staff uses a bass clef and contains long, sustained notes, starting with a *p* dynamic. All staves feature long, sweeping slurs over the notes, and each staff concludes with a crescendo leading to a *n.* (noisy) dynamic. The page is divided into four measures by vertical bar lines.