

SCULPTED
IN SMOKE

for string orchestra and harp

KEVIN
POELKING

Parts & Score - Not for Performance

A MESSAGE FROM THE COMPOSER

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Enjoy the music, thank you for your support, and please stay in touch!

Kevin Poelking

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SCULPTED IN SMOKE

STRING ORCHESTRA AND HARP

DURATION: CA. 6 MIN

(2026)

PROGRAM NOTES

Having conquered clay, stone, and wood, a confident sculptor sets out to master the impossible medium of smoke.

The sculptor (represented by the orchestra) begins by moving in practiced ways, but the smoke (represented by the harp) doesn't react like the familiar materials. Repeated swipes and grasps at the unruly wisps only cause them to dance more wildly.

In a frustrated attempt to force the smoke into a defined shape, the sculptor violently traps it between both hands. A moment of quiet gives the false hope that the smoke has finally yielded, before it mockingly seeps from between the fingers, wandering aimlessly back to the air above.

Defeated, the sculptor slumps into a chair in the corner of the room, watching the careless white cloud meander through the open space.

And it begins to reveal itself.

Graceful movement. Unique shapes. Subtle changes in color as it pushes and pulls apart. The sculptor begins to notice that the smoke possesses its own inherent beauty.

Tentatively, they extend a gentle hand toward the floating mass. Shaping the air with a patient delicacy, more forms begin to emerge. It seems that simply allowing the smoke to move in its natural state reveals its greatest beauty.

The smoke eventually dissipates, as is its nature. The sculptor has nothing to place in a gallery. Nothing for others to marvel at.

But through this dialogue, the sculptor experiences a fleeting moment of beauty that remains with them forever.

The sculptor changes because the smoke is allowed to be.

COMMISSIONED BY

THE CLEMENTS HIGH SCHOOL ORCHESTRA

NEAL SPRINGER | SALLY KIRK | STEPHANIE GUSTAFSON

DIRECTOR

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SCULPTED IN SMOKE

FOR STRING ORCHESTRA AND HARP

KEVIN POELKING

Explosive (♩ = c. 144)

Violin I

Violin II

Viola

Violoncello

Double Bass

Harp

ff

ff

ff

ff

ff

ff

pizz.

arco

gliss.

gliss.

div.

div.

div.

unis.

3

4

[illegible]

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This musical score is for measures 14 through 18 of the piece 'The Rose Tree'. It is arranged for a chamber ensemble consisting of Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Violoncello, Double Bass, and Harp. The key signature is one flat (B-flat major or D minor), and the time signature is 3/4. The score includes various musical notations such as dynamics (mf, p, norm.), articulation (accents, staccato), and performance instructions (pizzicato). The harp part features a continuous arpeggiated accompaniment. The strings play rhythmic patterns, with the violins and violas having more melodic lines. The double bass and cello provide a steady bass line. The score is marked with measure numbers 14, 15, 16, 17, and 18 at the bottom of the harp staff.

19

20

21

22

23

div. ord.

p

mf

mf

mf

mf

div.

unis.

24 25 26 27 28

24

25

26

27

28

The image shows a page of a musical score for 'The Rose Tree'. The score is for measures 41, 42, and 43. The instruments are Vln I, Vln II, Vla, Vc, D. B., and Hp. The music is in 3/4 time and G major. A large diagonal watermark 'For Performance' is overlaid on the page.

Measure 41: Vln I and Vln II play a melody of eighth notes. Vla plays a continuous sixteenth-note pattern. Vc and D. B. play a bass line of eighth notes. Hp plays a series of chords.

Measure 42: The melody continues with some changes in rhythm. The bass line and harmonic accompaniment also evolve.

Measure 43: The final measure of the page, showing the conclusion of the musical phrase.

Musical score for measures 47-49. The score includes parts for Violin I (Vln I), Violin II (Vln II), Viola (Vla), Violoncello (Vc), Double Bass (D. B.), and Harp (Hp). The key signature is one flat (B-flat major or D minor). The tempo is marked 'Allegretto' and the meter is 3/4. The score shows a transition from measure 47 to measure 49. In measure 47, the Violin I and II parts play a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes, while the Viola, Vc, and D. B. parts play a similar pattern. The Harp part is marked 'ff' and plays a series of chords. In measure 48, the Violin I and II parts play a similar pattern, while the Viola, Vc, and D. B. parts play a similar pattern. The Harp part is marked 'ff' and plays a series of chords. In measure 49, the Violin I and II parts play a similar pattern, while the Viola, Vc, and D. B. parts play a similar pattern. The Harp part is marked 'ff' and plays a series of chords.

53

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

D. B.

Hp

pizz.

mf arco

pizz.

mf arco pizz.

pizz.

mf pizz.

mf pizz.

50 51 52 53

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

D. B.

Hp

arco

pizz.

div.

arco

u. is.

pizz.

arco

54 55 56 57

Violin I (Vln I) and Violin II (Vln II) parts are in 4/4 time. Violin I has a *div.* (divisi) marking at measure 61, followed by *unis.* (unison). A *sfz* (sforzando) marking is present in measure 60. Violin II has a *div.* marking at measure 60, followed by *sfz* and *unis.* markings. Viola (Vla) part is in 12/4 time. It has a *pizz.* (pizzicato) marking at measure 59, followed by *div.* and *sfz* markings. It then has *unis. arco* (unison arco) and *pizz.* markings. Violoncello (Vc.) and Double Bass (D. B.) parts are in 4/4 time. Violoncello has a *div.* marking at measure 60, followed by *unis. pizz.* (unison pizzicato). Double Bass has a *sfz* marking at measure 60. Harp (Hp) part is in 4/4 time. It has a *sfz* marking at measure 60. Measure numbers 59, 60, 61, and 62 are indicated in boxes at the bottom of the Harp staff.

Violin I (Vln I) and Violin II (Vln II) parts are in 4/4 time. Violin I has a *gliss.* (glissando) marking at measure 63. Violin II has a *gliss.* marking at measure 63. Viola (Vla) part is in 12/4 time. It has a *pizz.* marking at measure 63, followed by *div.* and *unis. arco* markings. It then has *pizz.* and *arco* markings. Violoncello (Vc.) and Double Bass (D. B.) parts are in 4/4 time. Violoncello has a *arco* marking at measure 63. Double Bass has a *sfz* marking at measure 63. Harp (Hp) part is in 4/4 time. It has a *sfz* marking at measure 63. Measure numbers 63, 64, 65, and 66 are indicated in boxes at the bottom of the Harp staff.

69

Score for Performance

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

D. B.

Hp

f

pp

pp

mf

pizz.

pizz.

div. pizz.

pizz.

pizz.

arco

67

68

69

70

71

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

D. B.

Hp

div.

1st desk div. arco

arco div.

pp secco

f

f

f

f

f

arco

arco

unis. arco

arco

arco

72

73

74

75

A musical score page featuring seven staves. The top six staves are for Violin I (Vln I), Violin II (Vln II), Viola (Vla), Violoncello (Vc.), Double Bass (D. B.), and Harp (Hp). The bottom staff is for Piano (P). The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, accidentals, and dynamic markings like *ff*, *f*, *div.*, and *unis.*. A large diagonal watermark reading "Full Score - Not for Performance" is overlaid across the entire page. Measure numbers 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, and 81 are indicated at the bottom of their respective measures.

Violin I

Violin II

Vla

Vc.

D. B.

Hp

82

83

84

div.

div.

div.

div.

Violin I

Violin II

Vla

Vc.

D. B.

Hp

85

86

87

88

unis.

unis.

unis.

p

f

p

f

p

f

p

ff

12

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

D. B.

Hp

89

90

91

unis.

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

D. B.

Hp

92

93

94

Score for Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Violoncello, Double Bass, and Harp.

Measures 95-98:

- Violin I:** *ff* (fortissimo), playing a melodic line with accents.
- Violin II:** *pizz.* (pizzicato) in measure 95, then *arco* (arco) in measure 96, playing a melodic line with accents. *ff* in measure 98.
- Viola:** Playing a melodic line with accents. *ff* in measure 98.
- Violoncello:** Playing a melodic line with accents. *ff* in measure 98.
- Double Bass:** *pizz.* in measure 95, then *arco* in measure 96, playing a melodic line with accents. *ff* in measure 98.
- Harp:** Playing a melodic line with accents. *ff* in measure 98.

Measures 99-102:

- Violin I:** *pizz.* in measure 99, then *arco* in measure 100, playing a melodic line with accents. *solo* in measure 102.
- Violin II:** *gliss.* (glissando) in measure 99, then playing a melodic line with accents. *div.* (divisi) in measure 100, *unis.* (unison) in measure 102.
- Viola:** Playing a melodic line with accents. *div.* in measure 100, *unis.* in measure 102.
- Violoncello:** *gliss.* in measure 99, then playing a melodic line with accents. *div.* in measure 100, *unis.* in measure 102.
- Double Bass:** Playing a melodic line with accents. *div.* in measure 100, *unis.* in measure 102.
- Harp:** Playing a melodic line with accents.

Score for Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Violoncello, Double Bass, and Harp.

Measures 99-102:

- Violin I:** *pizz.* in measure 99, then *arco* in measure 100, playing a melodic line with accents. *solo* in measure 102.
- Violin II:** *gliss.* (glissando) in measure 99, then playing a melodic line with accents. *div.* (divisi) in measure 100, *unis.* (unison) in measure 102.
- Viola:** Playing a melodic line with accents. *div.* in measure 100, *unis.* in measure 102.
- Violoncello:** *gliss.* in measure 99, then playing a melodic line with accents. *div.* in measure 100, *unis.* in measure 102.
- Double Bass:** Playing a melodic line with accents. *div.* in measure 100, *unis.* in measure 102.
- Harp:** Playing a melodic line with accents.

14

div. pizz. unis. arco

tutti

gliss.

div.

div.

tutti div.

solo

103 104 105 106

109

pp unis. pizz.

pp

pp unis.

pp

p unis. pizz.

pp

(L.V.)

f

107 108 109 110 111

Score for Performance

Vln I *pp*

Vln II *arco*

Vla *solo* *p*

Vc. *pp* *le altre*

D. B. *arco*

Hp

112 113 114 115

Vln I *ppp*

Vln II *div.*

Vla *ppp*

Vc.

D. B.

Hp

116 117 118 119 120

Freely

124

Tenderly (♩ = c. 54)

1st desk only

tutti
con sord.

ppp

div. and
con sord.

ppp
con sord.

ppp

L.V.
molto espress. (approx. rhythm notated)

f

mp

ppp solo

p molto espress.

121 122 123 124

con sord.

pp

pp

tutti
con sord.

pp

pp

pp

pp

pp

pp

125 126 127 128

17

div. 130

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

D. B.

Hp

div.

univ.

129

130

131

132

[illegible]

138

solo *mp*

Vln I

solo *mp*

Vln II

solo *mp*

Vla

1st desk div. *mp*

Vc.

solo *mp*

D. B.

molto espressivo

tutti div. *p*

142

mf

unis. *mf*

tutti unis. *p*

f

138 139 140 141 142

unis.

Vln I *mf*

Vln II *mf*

Vla *mf*

Vc. *mf*

D. B. *mf*

div.

mp

ff

p

m

(p)

143 144 145 146

Score for Performance

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

D. B.

harmonic notated
at played position
(sounds 8va)

p

Hp

147

148

149

150

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

D. B.

Hp

unis.

ppp

solo

ppp

le altre

tutti

ppp

div.

solo

ppp

le altre arco

norm.

ppp

151

152

153

154

155