

***Fragile Farewell (2014)***

***for piano trio***

***Robert Carl***

*Commissioned by and dedicated to Gilda Lyons and the Phoenix Concerts*

*Written for entelechron: Roger Zahab, violin; David Russell, 'cello; Robert Frankenberry, piano*

*The Corporation of Yaddo is thanked for providing the ideal circumstances for the creation of this work.*

***Fragile Farewell** is a brief fantasia on the folk song "The Parting Glass", a song I am ashamed that I did not know until Gilda Lyons directed me to it. It's suffused with poignant regret, bittersweet love, and drunken resignation: kind of like life itself. The text follows:*

*Oh all the money that e'er I had, I spent it in good company,  
And all the harm, that e'er I done, alas it was to none but me,  
And all I've lost for want of wit to mem'ry now I can't recall;  
So fill to me this parting glass, Good night and joy be with you all.*

*If I had money enough to spend, And leisure time to sit awhile,  
There is a fair maid in this town, Who surely has my heart beguiled,  
Her rosy cheeks and ruby lips, I own, she has my heart in thrall,  
So fill to me this parting glass, Good night and joy be with you all.*

*Oh all the comrades e'er I had, They are sorry for my going away,  
and all the sweethearts e'er I had, They'd wished me one more day to stay.  
But since it fall unto my lot That I should rise and you should not,  
I'll gently rise and I'll softly call, Good night and joy be with you all.*

*The ambiguous but expansive harmonic world of the piece derives from the interplay of two "vertical overtone rows": one rooted in the low C of the cello, the other radiating up from F, the tonic of Gilda's arrangement of the song:*

The image shows a musical score for the piece "Fragile Farewell". It features two vocal parts, Voice I and Voice II, and piano accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the vocal staves. The score includes performance instructions such as "A tempo", "In time ♩ = 52", and "Freely again". The music is written in a key with one flat (B-flat) and a 3/4 time signature. The lyrics are: "Oh all the money that e'er I had, I spent it in good company, And all the harm, that e'er I done, alas it was to none but me, And all I've lost for want of wit to mem'ry now I can't recall; So fill to me this parting glass, Good night and joy be with you all." The score is enclosed in a black frame with four corner markers.

*Timing: c. 5 minutes*

# Fragile Farewell (2014)

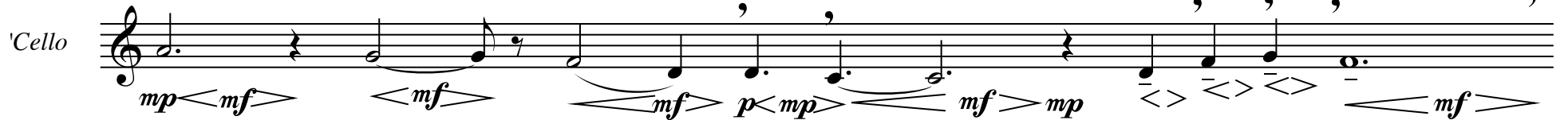
R. Carl

for piano trio

(♩=72) *(Con rubato; create a sound that is delicate, but also a bit raw)*

*(sul tasto; separate, very long bows to bring out "breathiness" of sound, some "hair" sound encouraged)*

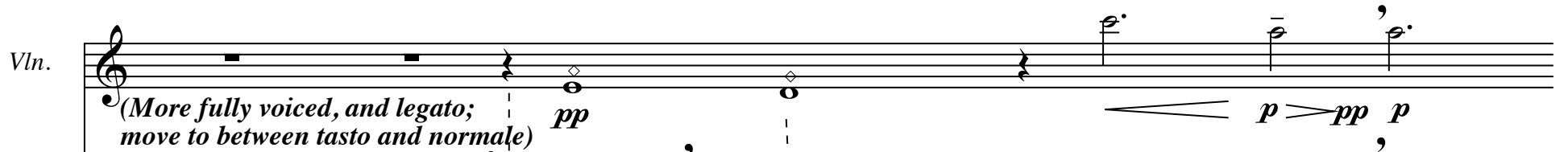
Cello



mp < mf > mf mf p < mp > mf mp mf

Vln.

*(More fully voiced, and legato; move to between tasto and normale)*



pp p > pp p

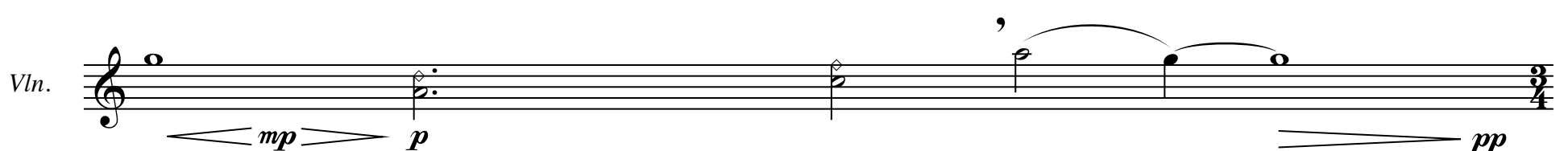
Vcl.



mp mf mf mp p mp

*(cello cues violin)*

Vln.



mp p pp

*(very still)*

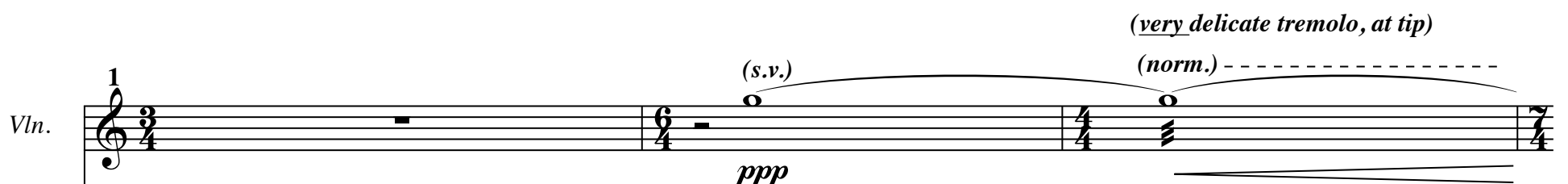
Vcl.



mf mp mf mp mp p pp

Vln.

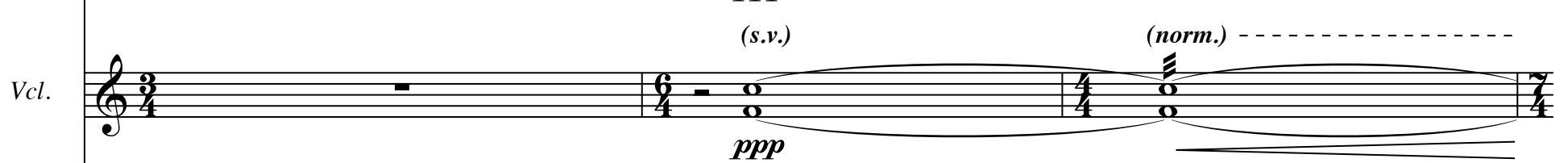
1



(s.v.) (norm.)

ppp

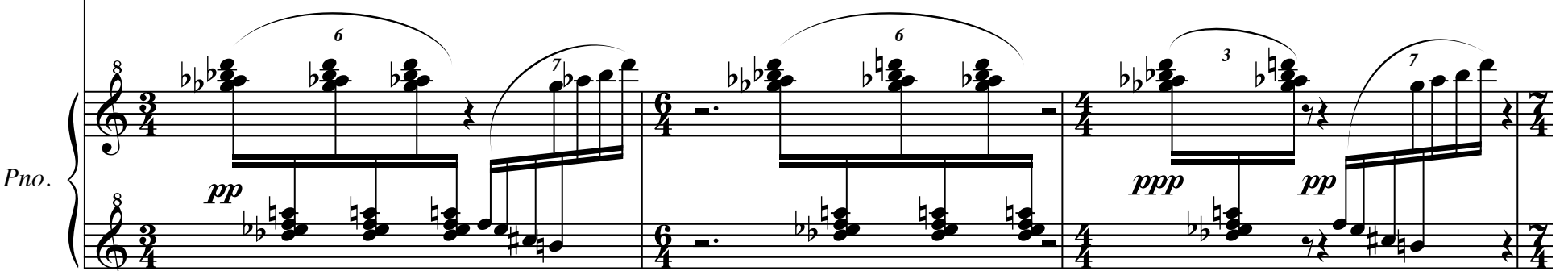
Vcl.



(s.v.) (norm.)

ppp

Pno.



pp ppp pp

6 7 3 7

*(U.C. sempre)*

(Both strings still s.v., very pure tone)

*(sul pont)* *(no s.p.)*

Vln. *p* *pp* *ppp* *pp*

Vcl. *p* *pp* *ppp* *pp* *(no s.p.)*

Pno. *p* *pp* *ppp* *p* *pp* *ppp*

Vln. *< p* *pp* *p*

Vcl. *< p* *pp* *p*

Pno. *pp* *p* *pp*

Vln. *mp > p* *pp* *p* *> pp* *< p* *> pp*

Vcl. *mp > p* *pp* *p < mp >* *< mp >*

Pno. *pppp* *p* *(loco)* *pp*

(end U.C.)

13 (sul pont)

Vln. *p mp p pp p*

Vcl. *mp mp mp mp*

Pno. *pp*

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

16 (norm.)

Vln. *mp < mf > p mp p < mp > p mp*

Vcl. *mp p p pp*

Pno. *pp p pp*

*Red. pp > ppp* \*

20

Vln. *pp p > pp p > pp p*

Vcl. *pp > ppp*

Pno. *p pp pp ppp*

*Red.* \*

4 (With a sense of speeding up, even if if tempo remains the same)

(violin: suddenly full-voiced; the first time!)

Vln. *pp* *ppp* *pp* *ppp* *f* *mf* *f* *mp*

Vcl. *f* *mf* *f* *mp* *f* *mf*

(cello: suddenly full-voiced; for the first time!)

Pno. (always greater emphasis on first note, despite downbeat) *ppp* *pp* *p* *mp*

Red.

Vln. *p* *f* *mf* *sf* *p* *pp*

Vcl. *f* *mf* *sf* *pp* *ppp* *pp*

(sul tasto)

Pno. *mf* *mp* *p* *pp*

Vln. *n.* *ppp* *pp* *mp* *mf* *sf*

(norm.)

Vcl. *p* *mp* *mf* *f* *mf* *sf*

Pno. *mp* *mf* *mp* *mf* *mp*

(crescendo to *f* on upward arpeggio)

8va

(Hold back a little) *A Tempo*

40

Vln. *mf*

Vcl. *mf* *f* *mf*

Pno. *mp* *mf* *sf (sempre)*

44

Vln. *f* *mf* *ff* *sf* *f* *mf* *mp*

Vcl. *f* *mf* *ff* *sf* *f* *mf* *mp*

Pno. *mp* *sf* *sf* *mf* *mf*

48

Vln. *p* *pp* *p* *n.*

Vcl. *p* *pp* *p* *n.*

Pno. *mp* *p* *pp*

(*sul tasto, senza vibr.*)