

Chaconne

for two string orchestras
or ten string instruments

by Vaughan M^cAlley (2009)



Notes on the music

While thinking about writing a piece for string orchestra (or two), I decided to use the chaconne form, as it is immediately familiar to string players. This piece inherits the basic rhythmic and phrase structure from Bach's great *Ciaccona* from the Partita in D Minor for unaccompanied violin, but, being for at least ten instruments, takes substantially new directions.

The twenty-one iterations of the eight-bar theme are divided into a group of thirteen and a group of eight, both Fibonacci numbers. These groups are then divided into groups of smaller Fibonacci numbers. Notable sections include twenty-four bars of strict canon between the orchestras from letter **L** to letter **N**, the climax from **N** to **Q** in ten real parts, and the *maggiore* section from **Q** to **T** that inverts the main theme.

The basses sometimes perform their traditional role of doubling their respective cellos, but in this piece are more often called to provide a bass line on their own.

Notes not slurred should be firmly articulated.

Vaughan McAlley (August 2009)

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$\text{♩} = \text{c. } 96$

Violin 1
Violin 2
Viola 1
Cello 1
Contrabass 1
Violin 3
Violin 4
Viola 2
Cello 2
Contrabass 2

9 **A** **B**

Vln 1 *p*

Vln 2 *p*

Vla 1 *mf*

Vcl 1 *p*

Cb 1 *p*

Vln 3 *f*

Vln 4 *f*

Vla 2 *f*

Vcl 2 *f*

Cb 2 *f*

18 **C**

Vln 1 *mf*

Vln 2 *mf*

Vla 1 *mf*

Vcl 1 *mf*

Cb 1 *mf*

Vln 3 *p*

Vln 4 *p*

Vla 2 *mf*

Vcl 2 *p*

Cb 2 *p*

D

26

Vln 1
Vln 2
Vla 1
Vcl 1
Cb 1
Vln 3
Vln 4
Vla 2
Vcl 2
Cb 2

f *mf* *f* *f*
f *mf* *f* *f*
f *mf* *f* *f*
f *mf* *f* *f*
f *mf* *f* *mf*
mf *f* *mf*
mf *f* *mf*
mf *f* *mf*
mf *f* *mf*
mf *f* *mf*

34

Vln 1

Vln 2

Vla 1

Vcl 1

Cb 1

Vln 3

Vln 4

Vla 2

Vcl 2

Cb 2

41 **E** **F**

Vln 1 *p* *mf*

Vln 2 *p* *mf*

Vla 1 *p*

Vcl 1 *p*

Cb 1 *p*

Vln 3 *p* *p*

Vln 4 *p* *p*

Vla 2 *p* *p*

Vcl 2 *p* *mf*

Cb 2 *p* *mf*

G

50

Vln 1 *f*

Vln 2 *f*

Vla 1 *f*

Vcl 1 *f*

Cb 1 *mf* *f*

Vln 3 *f*

Vln 4 *f* *mf*

Vla 2

Vcl 2

Cb 2 *mf*

58 **H**

Vln 1 *mf* *ff*

Vln 2 *ff*

Vla 1 *mf* *ff*

Vcl 1 *ff*

Cb 1 *ff*

Vln 3 *mf* *ff*

Vln 4 *ff*

Vla 2 *mf* *ff*

Vcl 2 *ff*

Cb 2 *ff*

66

Vln 1

Vln 2

Vla 1

Vcl 1

Cb 1

Vln 3

Vln 4

Vla 2

Vcl 2

Cb 2

mf

mf

mf

mf

mf

mf

mf

mf

mf

J

K

75

Vln 1 *f*

Vln 2 *f*

Vla 1 *f*

Vcl 1 *f*

Cb 1 *f*

Vln 3 *mf* *f*

Vln 4 *mf* *f*

Vla 2 *mf* *f*

Vcl 2 *f*

Cb 2 *mf* *f*

84

L

Vln 1

Vln 2

Vla 1

Vcl 1

Cb 1

Vln 3

Vln 4

Vla 2

Vcl 2

Cb 2

cresc.

cresc.

cresc.

cresc.

cresc.

cresc.

cresc.

cresc.

cresc.

cresc.

cresc.

M

93

Vln 1

Vln 2

Vla 1

Vcl 1

Cb 1

Vln 3

Vln 4

Vla 2

Vcl 2

Cb 2

cresc.

101

Score for two string orchestras, measures 101 to 106. The page contains two systems of staves. The first system includes Vln 1, Vln 2, Vla 1, Vcl 1, and Cb 1. The second system includes Vln 3, Vln 4, Vla 2, Vcl 2, and Cb 2. The music is in a key with two flats (B-flat major or D minor) and a 3/8 time signature. A dynamic change to *ff* (fortissimo) occurs at measure 105 in all parts. A fermata is present in the first staff of the second system at measure 104. A large letter 'N' is positioned above the first staff of the second system at measure 105.

Vln 1

Vln 2

Vla 1

Vcl 1

Cb 1

Vln 3

Vln 4

Vla 2

Vcl 2

Cb 2

ff

ff

ff

ff

ff

ff

ff

ff

ff

ff

107

Vln 1

Vln 2

Vla 1

Vcl 1

Cb 1

Vln 3

Vln 4

Vla 2

Vcl 2

Cb 2

114

Vln 1

Vln 2

Vla 1

Vcl 1

Cb 1

Vln 3

Vln 4

Vla 2

Vcl 2

Cb 2

P

121

Vln 1

Vln 2

Vla 1

Vcl 1

Cb 1

Vln 3

Vln 4

Vla 2

Vcl 2

Cb 2

128 **Q**

Vln 1 *p*

Vln 2 *p*

Vla 1 *p*

Vcl 1 *p*

Cb 1 *p*

Vln 3

Vln 4

Vla 2

Vcl 2

Cb 2

137 **R**

Vln 1 *f*

Vln 2 *f*

Vla 1 *mf* *mf*

Vcl 1 *mf* *mf*

Cb 1 *mf*

Vln 3 *mf* *mf*

Vln 4 *mf* *mf*

Vla 2 *mf* *mf*

Vcl 2 *mf* *mf*

Cb 2 *mf* *mf*

S

146

Vln 1

Vln 2

Vla 1

Vcl 1

Cb 1

Vln 3

Vln 4

Vla 2

Vcl 2

Cb 2

T

153

Vln 1 *f* *dim.*

Vln 2 *f* *dim.*

Vla 1 *f*

Vcl 1 *f*

Cb 1 *f* *dim.*

Vln 3 *f* *dim.*

Vln 4 *f* *dim.*

Vla 2 *f* *dim.*

Vcl 2 *f*

Cb 2 *f*

Detailed description: This page of a musical score, titled 'T', contains measures 153 through 160. It is arranged for two string orchestras. The first system includes Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola 1, Violoncello 1, and Contrabasso 1. The second system includes Violin 3, Violin 4, Viola 2, Violoncello 2, and Contrabasso 2. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The score begins at measure 153 with a dynamic marking of *f* (forte). The Violin 1 part features a complex, rhythmic melody with many sixteenth notes. The other instruments provide harmonic support with various rhythmic patterns. Dynamic markings of *f* and *dim.* (diminuendo) are used throughout the score to indicate changes in volume.

U

161 *mf* *f* *p* *f* *rit.*

Vln 1 *mf* *f* *p* *f*

Vln 2 *mf* *f* *p* *f*

Vla 1 *mf* *f* *p* *f*

Vcl 1 *mf* *f* *p* *f*

Cb 1 *mf* *f* *f*

Vln 3 *mf* *f* *f*

Vln 4 *mf* *f* *f*

Vla 2 *mf* *f* *f*

Vcl 2 *mf* *f* *f*

Cb 2 *mf* *f* *f*