



Elaine Fine

Eleven
Miniature
Studies
for
Violin
Solo

Program Note

Beginning in January of 2020, people all over the world have been isolating in their homes in order to slow and eventually stop the spread of the Covid-19 Corona Virus. Musicians are trying to remain sane and productive during this time. This set of studies is dedicated to the violinists practicing in isolation while the virus is keeping performing venues and schools closed.

I found a lively discussion online concerning etudes to practice in order to improve intonation. I thought it might be fun to write a series of studies for solo violin that begins with a single pitch, and adds a new pitch to each subsequent piece. The result is this fifteen-minute-long work for solo violin in eleven sections. Because of the discipline of pitch limitation, they are as much studies in composition as they are studies in violin playing.

Fanfare in Mono-D uses the pitch of D. The left hand does the easy work, while the bow arm gets a few challenges.

Hast du einen Vogel? has the pitch of C added to the D. While I was at work, I noticed that the birds outside were singing same two pitches! It was almost as if they were singing with me! So I named this second piece “Hast du einen Vogel?” It’s a German way of asking “Are you crazy?”

Waltz of the Seeds gets its name from the pitches C, E, and D.

Pas de quatre is a little ballet-like piece that is mostly in the meter of 4/4. Its new pitch is F sharp. The G is not yet in play, so it has to wait for the next miniature in order to cadence.

Fifth Business is named for the first novel of Robertson Davies’s *The Deptford Trilogy*, and it begins with the new pitch of G. It is in 5/4 throughout, and begins with a suggestion of “Happy Birthday to You” followed by a parody of Fritz Kreisler’s “Caprice Vennois.” After suggestions of circus music, it magically ends just like “Happy Birthday to You.”

What the Hex? gets B flat as its new pitch. It has a spooky quality, and is a play on the idea of a hex being a witch or a spell.

Seas, Days, Hills, and Rainbows are all things that relate to the number seven. The new pitch here is A, and the arpeggios are like hills and waves.

Arachnida are eight-legged crawling creatures (i.e. spiders), so this miniature is a tarantella, which is an Italian dance named for the tarantula.

Pluto is the ninth planet. Some say it is a dwarf planet, but it’s still Pluto. Named for the Greek god of the underworld, it is dark and remote. You will certainly notice suggestions of other planets (as presented by Holst in *The Planets*). Those are deliberate. And the new pitch is B natural.

Das Hexen-Einmal-Eins! is a little like “What the Hex?” in shape and spirit. The new pitch is F natural. This miniature is inspired by some “witchy” math offered in scene three of Goethe’s *Faust*.

Du mußt verstehn!
Aus Eins mach’ Zehn,
Und Zwey laß gehn,
Und Drey mach’ gleich,
So bist du reich.
Verlier’ die Vier!
Aus Fünf und Sechs,
So sagt die Hex’,
Mach’ Sieben und Acht,
So ist’s vollbracht:
Und Neun ist Eins,
Und Zehn ist keins.
Das ist das Hexen-Einmal-Eins!

Group Eleven is the group in the periodic table of the elements that includes silver, gold, and copper. This miniature uses all the pitches of the chromatic scale, and incorporates materials and textures from the previous ten miniatures. The melody for the waltz that begins in measure nine lines up the pitches in the order they are presented in the set. There are also materials and textures here and there inspired by Wagner’s *Ring*.

Eleven Miniature Studies for Violin Solo

I. Fanfare in Mono-D

Adagio

Elaine Fine

p *ff* *pp* *f*

9 *pp* *f* 3 3

13 *p* *f* 3 3

15 *accelerando* *Allegro* *p* 3 3 3

19 3 3 3 3 3 *cresc.*

22 *ff* 3 *allargando* 3 2.

This can, of course, be played a fifth lower, but you sacrifice the pun.

II. Hast du einen Vogel?

Sprightly and with freedom

Violin score for the piece "Hast du einen Vogel?". The score is written in treble clef and 4/4 time. It begins with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The tempo/mood is "Sprightly and with freedom". The score is divided into measures, with measure numbers 5, 8, 11, 14, 17, and 20 indicated. The dynamics range from *mf* (mezzo-forte) to *pp* (pianissimo). The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, ties, and trills.

Measures 1-4: *mf*

Measure 5: *mf*

Measures 6-7: *mf*

Measures 8-9: *f*

Measures 10-11: *mf*

Measures 12-13: *mp*

Measures 14-15: *p*

Measures 16-17: *mp*

Measures 18-19: *pp*

Measure 20: *pp*

III. Waltz of the Seeds

Quick waltz tempo

Violin score for "Waltz of the Seeds". The piece is in 3/4 time and begins with a *f* dynamic. The first system (measures 1-7) features a melody with eighth-note patterns and a bass line with dotted rhythms. The second system (measures 8-15) continues the melody with slurs and a bass line with eighth-note patterns. The third system (measures 16-23) features a melody with slurs and a bass line with eighth-note patterns. The fourth system (measures 24-32) features a melody with slurs and a bass line with eighth-note patterns, ending with a *Fine* marking. The fifth system (measures 33-40) is marked *Trio* and *ff*, featuring a melody with slurs and a bass line with eighth-note patterns. The sixth system (measures 41-48) features a melody with slurs and a bass line with eighth-note patterns. The seventh system (measures 49-56) features a melody with slurs and a bass line with eighth-note patterns. The eighth system (measures 57-64) is marked *pizz.* and *mp*, featuring a melody with slurs and a bass line with eighth-note patterns, ending with a *D.C. al Fine* marking.

8

16

24

33

41

49

57

f

mp

ff

p

mp

rallentando

D.C. al Fine

IV. Pas de quatre

Allegro

mp

4 *f*

7 *mf* *f*

10

12 *a tempo*

15 *mp* *cresc.*

17 *a piacere* *p* *ff*

20 *pizz.* *mp* *a tempo* *arco* *ff* *p* *Segue*

V. Fifth Business

*During a casual visit to a circus in a Tyrolean village,
Ramsey encounters the magician Faustus LeGrand.*

Allegro moderato

pizz. arco pizz. arco

mf *mp* 3

5

espressivo

Poco vivace

pizz. arco pizz. arco

f *mp* *sfz*

10

14

mp

pizz. arco rubato

a tempo

f *mp* *dolce* *p* *f*

18

con bravura *ritardando* **Larghetto**

f *ff*

22

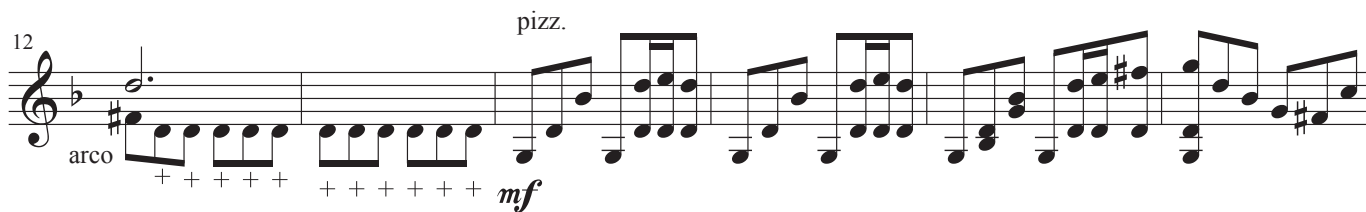
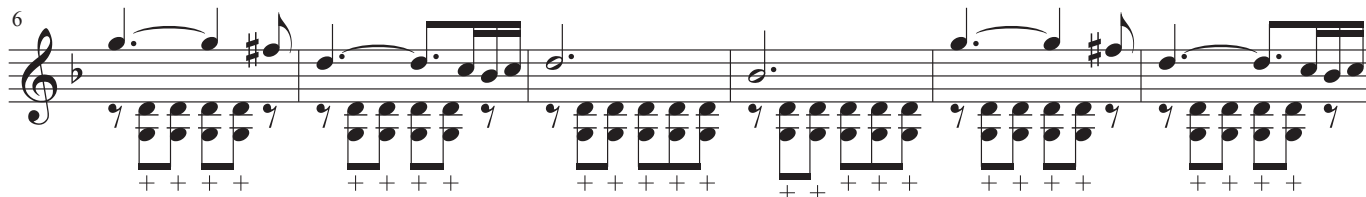
VI. What the Hex?

Molto moderato

pizz.

***p***

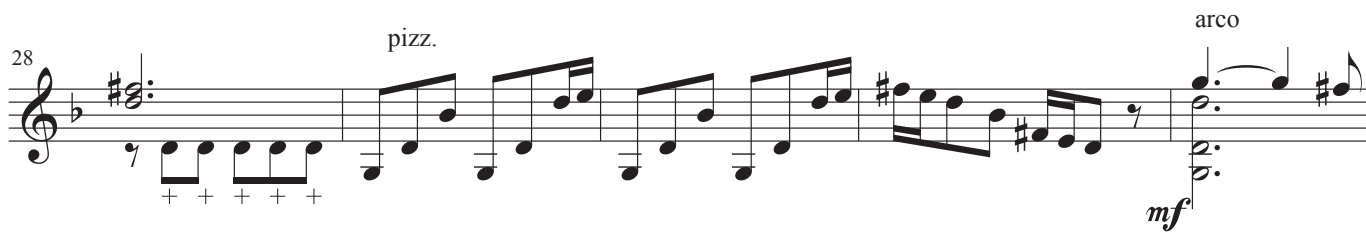
arco



pizz.

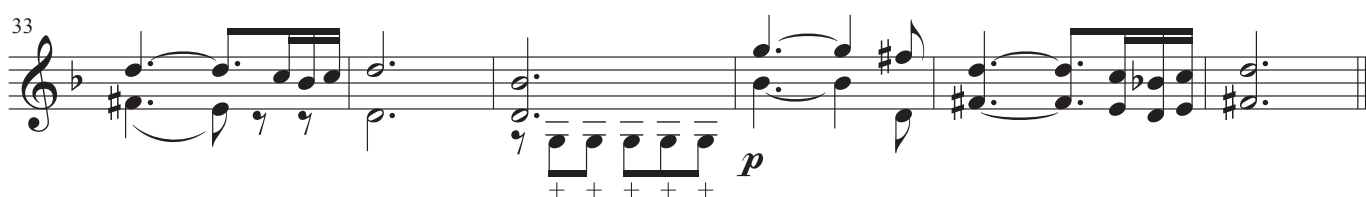
mf

arco

mf***mp***

pizz.

arco

mf***p***

VII. Seas, Days, Hills, and Rainbows

Quasi fantasia ♩ = c. 80

4

6

9

11

14

17

20

ff *mf* *mp* *f* *p* *cresc.* *ff* *p* *carefully (watch your step)* *mp* *f* *con moto* *allargando*

calando *accelerando* *a tempo* *pizz.* *arco*

VIII. Arachnida

Vivace

mp

mf

7

12

f

p

18

f

mp

f

25

ff

mp

31

mf

37

f

43

p

f

Violin

IX. Pluto

the smallest planet, and the most remote

Mysterious and distant ♩ = 60

(♩ = ♩)

mp *p*

agitato *ritardando* *a tempo*

4 *mf* *mp*

8 *p* *pp*

11 *pizz.* *p* *arco* *IV* *mp*

14 *III* *pp*

18 *L.H. pizz.* *ppp* *arco at the tip.*

The score is written for violin in treble clef. It begins with a tempo of ♩ = 60 and a mood of 'Mysterious and distant'. The first system (measures 1-3) features a 5/4 time signature, a half note, followed by eighth notes, and a triplet of eighth notes. The second system (measures 4-6) includes a 5/4 time signature, a key signature change to one sharp (F#), a 3/4 time signature, and a 6/4 time signature. It contains various dynamics like *mf*, *mp*, and *p*, and articulations like *agitato*, *ritardando*, and *a tempo*. The third system (measures 7-10) shows a 4/4 time signature and a 5/4 time signature, with dynamics *p* and *pp*. The fourth system (measures 11-13) includes a 4/4 time signature, a key signature change to one flat (Bb), and dynamics *p* and *mp*. The fifth system (measures 14-16) features a 4/4 time signature, a key signature change to two flats (Bb, Eb), and dynamics *pp*. The sixth system (measures 17-19) includes a 4/4 time signature, a key signature change to two sharps (F#, C#), and dynamics *ppp*. The score concludes with a final measure in 4/4 time.

X. Das Hexen-Einmal-Eins!

Allegro furioso

Violin score for "X. Das Hexen-Einmal-Eins!". The piece is in 6/8 time and marked **Allegro furioso**. The score consists of nine staves of music, with measures numbered 5, 10, 17, 22, 26, 30, 32, and 37. The dynamics range from *ff* (fortissimo) to *pp* (pianissimo). The tempo is **Allegro furioso**. The key signature is one flat (B-flat). The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, ties, and articulation marks.

Measures 5, 10, 17, 22, 26, 30, 32, and 37 are marked with measure numbers. The dynamics are *f*, *ff*, *mp*, *f*, *mf*, *ff*, *mf*, *mp*, and *pp*. The tempo is **Allegro furioso**. The key signature is one flat (B-flat). The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, ties, and articulation marks.

XI. Group Eleven

silver, gold, and copper

Fantasia

ff

subito p

Tempo di Neue Wiener Schule Walz

ff

mf

pp

mp

Tempo primo
a piacere

p

mp

mf

f

ff

mp

Allegretto
leggero

p

mp

ff