

DAVID
AVSHALOMOV

Elegy

String Orchestra
(1990)

SCORE

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This work grew out of its soulful opening melody, arching up, gently falling down. It has five sections. The first (in A minor) spins out the tune in the first violins (who carry the melodic thread for most of the piece), gradually adding accompaniment, cadencing on a “farewell” harmony, then repeating. The second is a solemn chorale in the lower strings, turning to A major. The third is a high sweet melody in first violins (memories and hope), becoming more impassioned in a second section, under a pulsing accompaniment. The fourth is an unexpected slow blues-y “stomp,” hitting deliberate “sour” notes and adding mildly jazzy harmonies in the plucked accompaniment, building, climaxing, relaxing. (This shift has been described by listeners as “Mahler meets Cab Callaway.”) The fifth re-works the opening, now more bitterly harmonized, reaching a “death” chord, then repeating the “farewell” cadence. It closes with several plangent phrases echoing the opening motif of the piece. The first violins are left hanging high above a deep bass note, then the inner parts complete a sweet harmony of acceptance, fading away.

(Elegy is dedicated to the memory of Leonard Bernstein, whose career was a beacon for young American conductors and composers. It has on specific occasions been performed in memory of others, including the composer’s paternal grandfather, Aaron Avshalomoff.)

(Note by the composer)

Lento ♩ = 46 *poco riten.*

Vn. 1 *pp* <espr.>

Vn. 2

Vla.

Vcl. *pp* senza vibr. (open string)

C.B. *pp* senza vibr.

(Bassi with low C extension)

A *a tempo* *riten. tornando Tempo,* ♩ = 53

al-div. **B** *poco mosso*

ppp *p* *dim.* *pp* *ppp* *poco* *p* *p sost.*

pp *poco* *p* *dim.* *pp* *ppp* *poco* *p* *p sentito*

ppp *ppp* *ppp* *ppp* *ppp* *ppp* *ppp* *ppp* *ppp* *ppp*

nat. *p sost.* *nat.* *p sost.*

15

20 *rit. - - - -* (C) **Tempo I** (♩ = 46)

dim. *pp* *div. sost.* *niente*

dim. *pp* *sost.*

dim. *pp* *sost.*

dim. *pp* *sost.*

26 (D) **Andante** (♩ = 60-72)

(div.) *poco mp ppp* *(cresc. -- phrasing only)* *pochiss.* *(unis.)* *pp* *pp dolce, legato*

poco mp ppp *pochiss.* *pp*

poco mp ppp *pochiss.* *pp*

poco mp ppp *pochiss.* *pp*

32

div. *div.*

poco accel. - - - (♩ = 76)

39

(pp) espr. cresc. - - - mp (cresc.)

(pp) cresc. mp

(pp) cresc. mp

(opt. (pp) div.) pizz. cresc. mp

(pp) (open string) cresc. mp

rit. **E** *Slow Stomp* ♩ = 72 + (straight 16ths)

46

mf dim. p pp sfz mp swing a little

mf dim. p pp p pizz. stacc.

(div.) mf dim. p pp p pizz. stacc.

mf dim. p pp p pizz. stacc.

mf mp p

(swing) **F** *Poco a poco accel.*

52

straight eighths mp etc.

mp ringing cresc. etc.

mp ringing cresc. etc.

mp ringing cresc. etc.

mp ringing cresc.

poco a poco accel. - - - -

(open string)
swing

marcato

58

mf *cresc. - - -* *mf* *f* *mf cresc. - - -* *mf cresc.* *mf cresc.* *mf cresc.*

div. (top) *div.*

(open A) *etc.* *etc.*

(open A)

(♩ = 92)

div. gliss. *8va* *rit.*

G *poco meno mosso*

♩ = 80

64

f *pp* *pp* *pp* *stacc.* *pp* *stacc.* *pp* *stacc.*

arp. *arco* *ppizz.* *stacc.*

(div. in 3) *ff* *sfp* *pp* *stacc.*

arp. *arco unis.* *pp* *stacc.*

f *ff* *sfp* *pp* *stacc.*

div. *mf* *p* *pp* *stacc.*

(♩ = 60)

rit.

H *piu Lento*

♩ = 44

70

sul sol *(straight 16ths)* *(pp)* *mp* *p* *pp* *arco* *espr.*

arco *pp* *arco* *pp*

div.

76

msfp unis. msfp pp poco pp dim. ppp

(pp) msfp pp poco pp dim. ppp

msfp poco pp poco pp dim. ppp

msfp pp poco pp dim. ppp

(Bass)

84

senza vibr. con vibr. pppp poco p espr. pp unis. riten.

div. senza vibr. con vibr. pp

pppp poco p pp

div. senza vibr. con vibr. unis. pp

arco pp

(Bass) pppp poco p pp

92

unis. pppp pp pp espr. pp unis. ppp

pppp pp pp pp unis. ppp

div. pp pp pp unis. pp

unis. pppp ppp

pppp ppp

Larghissimo riten. lunga

DAVID AVSHALOMOV

Works for/with Strings

Elegy - string orchestra [9]

Pangs of Love - string orchestra [32]

(Romantic variations on a Rachmaninoff Love Theme)

Diamond Variations on an original theme,
string orchestra with (opt.) harp [12]

Concerto con Timpani (baroque) - timp., strings, harpsichord [12]

Arietta - flute and strings (opt. 2nd flute) [2]

String Quartet [23]

The Last Poet's Farewell - solo violin [22]

Elegy arranged for solo violin with piano [9]

Dance - violin (intermediate) and (student) piano [3]

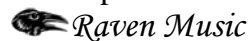
Diversion - violin and timpani [5]

Torn Curtain suite - viola with piano [32]

Sonata for Violoncello with piano [28]

Variations on a Beethoven Theme - solo violoncello [12]

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davshalomov@earthlink.net • www.davshalomov.com

(310) 392-2641