

NIGHT PIECE






Seán Doherty
2020

String Trio,
Actor (opt.)

PROGRAMME NOTE

Night carries much symbolic weight in the German song tradition: in Schoenberg's *Verklärte Nacht* it is a liminal time in which societal mores are suspended; in Schubert's *Nacht und Träume* it is a place to find refuge in dreams. *Night Piece* is inspired by Samuel Beckett's last television play, *Nacht und Träume* (1982). In this wordless play the only sound is that of a voice humming the final bars of Schubert's lied of the same name, originally sung to the words 'Holde Träume, kehret wieder!' ('*Sweet dreams, come back!*'). Beckett conveys a feeling of deep pathos amid the silence and stillness. In *Night Piece* the final bars of 'Nacht und Träume' return and mark the Dreamer's passage through the various stages of sleep in which different types of dreams occur. Our inchoate desires reveal themselves in these half-forgotten dreams—the desire for atonement, for forgiveness, for consolation, for acceptance. This is not a lullaby but a howl of protest to be left alone in dreams, safe from reality, and enveloped in night.

PERFORMANCE NOTES

I, II, III, IV	Roman numerals indicate string numbers
s.t.	sul tasto
s.p.	sul ponticello
scratch tone	excessive pressure on bow to produce a grating sound
	a gradual change from one technique to another
	an unmeasured tremolo
	A group of notes with feathered, or fanned beams indicates gradual accelerando or rallentando within the duration. The number of stems in these feathered beams is limited for the purposes of clarity. The effect is that of a gradual accelerando/rallentando to/from an unmeasured tremolo; the exact number of notes is not important and left to the discretion of the performer.
	A feathered tremolo indicates the same effect and includes the alternation between two notes.
	Tremolo with second note, which also has simultaneous glissando to the indicated note, within the given duration.

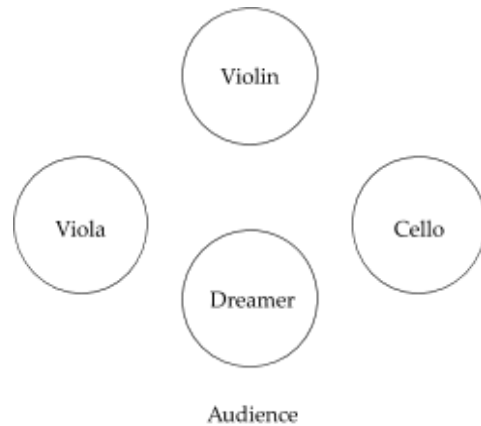
Night Piece, Actor's Part (optional)

Letters correspond to Rehearsal Marks.

All movements extremely slow.

Actor (**Dreamer**) present on stage, facing audience.

Eyes open, hands flat on a small table or desk.



- A. Motif, Cello
- Eyes get heavy and close.
 - Head rests on folded arms on desk. This is the sleeping position.
- B. Motif, Viola
- Raise head and chest, with eyes still closed.
 - Cup hands and sip from cupped hands.
 - Tilt head upward. Hold position.
- C. Motif, Violin
- Lower head and hands to sleeping position.
- D. Motif, Viola
- Raise head and chest, with eyes still closed.
 - Extend one hand out directly in front.
 - When arm is extended, face palm upwards.
 - Extend other arm with palm facing down, coming to rest on top of the first hand.
 - Move clasped hands to forehead. Slightly bow forehead. Hold position.
- E. Motif, Violin
- Lower head and hands to sleeping position.
- F. Motif, Viola
- Raise head and chest, with eyes still closed.
 - Cross hands diagonally on chest. Press hands into chest.
 - Move hands upwards until they clasp throat.
 - Tilt neck upwards and continue to move hands upward and past the chin.
 - Hold hands in crossed position and extend arms directly upwards.
 - At full extension, hold position.
- G. Silence
- Open eyes. Look around, bewildered, audible breathing. Lower arms.
 - **Dreamer** looks to **Cello** and nods head hopefully.
 - **Cello** shakes head, solemnly, in response.
 - **Dreamer** looks to **Viola**, who nods head solemnly.
 - **Dreamer** shakes head in disbelief.
- H. First sound after silence
- Dreamer closes eyes as they issue silent scream on the first note after the silence.
 - Leans forward as if crying in anguish.
- I. Motif, Violin
- Intensity gradually leaves face, until relaxed.
 - Lower head and hands to sleeping position.
- J. Motif, Cello
- Raise head and chest, eyes open.

2

7

Musical score for measures 7-9. Measure 7: Treble clef, sfz, sixteenth-note chords. Bass clef, s.p., sixteenth-note chords. Measure 8: Treble clef, p, quarter note with fermata. Bass clef, s.p., sixteenth-note chords. Measure 9: Treble clef, non arm., half note. Bass clef, ord., quarter note.

9

Musical score for measures 9-11. Measure 9: Treble clef, gliss., half note. Bass clef, s.p., sixteenth-note chords. Measure 10: Treble clef, p, quarter note with fermata. Bass clef, s.p., sixteenth-note chords. Measure 11: Treble clef, 8^{vb}, quarter note with fermata. Bass clef, pp, quarter note.

B

11

Musical score for measures 11-13. Measure 11: Treble clef, gliss., half note. Bass clef, sfz, sixteenth-note chords. Measure 12: Treble clef, ord., quarter note. Bass clef, gliss., half note. Measure 13: Treble clef, gliss., half note. Bass clef, gliss., half note.

14

gliss. *pp* *p* *pp*

18

gliss. *pp* *mp* *p* *mf*

22

gliss. *p* *mf* *p* *f*

mf *mp* *f* *mf*

27 **C**

mf

pp sub. f sub. > pp

f sub. >

→ non arm.

III → non arm.

→ non arm.

32 s.t.

pp

sfz

p

p

→ non arm.

→ non arm.

→ non arm.

s.p.

ord.

35

p

pp

gliss.

ord.

8vb

37 **D**

sfz

gliss.

gliss.

unstable harmonics
unmeasured trem.
s.t.

40

unstable harmonics
unmeasured trem.
s.t.

pp p pp mp pp

unstable harmonics
unmeasured trem.
s.t.

pp p pp mp

This system contains measures 40 through 46. It features three staves: Treble, Bass, and a lower Treble staff. The music is in G major (one sharp). The notation includes various dynamics such as *pp*, *p*, and *mp*. There are also performance instructions like 'unstable harmonics', 'unmeasured trem.', and 's.t.' (sotto voce). The lower Treble staff has a large 'E' above it, possibly indicating a fingering or a specific technique.

47

ord. non arm.

pp mf pp

mf pp f

pp mf pp f

This system contains measures 47 through 51. It features three staves: Treble, Bass, and a lower Treble staff. The music is in G major. Dynamics include *pp*, *mf*, and *f*. Performance instructions include 'ord.' (ordinario) and 'non arm.' (non armato). The lower Treble staff has a large 'E' above it.

52

E

f dolce

pp f non arm.

pp f

This system contains measures 52 through 56. It features three staves: Treble, Bass, and a lower Treble staff. The music is in G major. Dynamics include *f* and *pp*. Performance instructions include 'dolce' and 'non arm.'. The lower Treble staff has a large 'E' above it.

57

pp sub. *f sub.* *pp* *f sub.* *pp*

→ non arm. → non arm. → non arm. → non arm.

s.t. *gliss.* *pp* → non arm. *f sub.* → non arm.

61

sfz *p* non arm. *s.p.* 0 0 *p* 0

→ non arm. *s.p.* 0 0 *ord.* 0 0 0

8vb

F

64

gliss. *ord.* *pp* *sfz* *ord.* *gliss.* *gliss.*

68

s.t. → s.p.

pp p

s.t. s.p.

pp p

s.t. s.p.

pp p

s.t. s.p.

72

p mp

s.p. s.t. s.p.

mp p mf

s.t. s.t.

mp p

s.t. s.t.

76

mp mf

s.p. s.t. s.p.

mp f

s.p. s.p.

mf f

84

gliss.

(non-specified unstable harmonics)

(highest harm. poss., may be unstable)

ff

fff

(highest harm. poss., may be unstable)

(highest harm. poss., may be unstable)

ff

fff

(non-specified unstable harmonics)

(highest harm. poss., may be unstable)

G

Optional cut to Rehearsal Mark **H** (non-staged performance)

vi -

Dreamer looks to **Cello** and nods head hopefully.
Cello shakes head, solemnly, in response.
Dreamer looks to **Viola**, who nods head solemnly.
Dreamer shakes head in disbelief.

87

H

- de

8^{va}

88 scratch tone

→non arm. →non arm.

ff scratch tone →non arm.

ff scratch tone →non arm.

ff scratch tone →non arm.

I

(8)

91

ord.

fff espress.

ord.

fff

ord.

fff

92

(8)

6

6

93

Musical score for measures 93-94. The score is in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. It features three staves: Treble, Bass, and a lower Treble staff. Measure 93: Treble staff has a whole rest. Bass staff has a half note G2 with a fermata, followed by a quarter note G2. Lower Treble staff has a half note G2 with a fermata, followed by a quarter note G2. Dynamics: *pp sub.* for the first half, *f sub.* for the second half. Performance instructions: "→ non arm." above the first half and "→ non arm." above the second half. Measure 94: Treble staff has a whole rest. Bass staff has a half note G2 with a fermata, followed by a quarter note G2. Lower Treble staff has a half note G2 with a fermata, followed by a quarter note G2. Dynamics: *pp* for the first half, *f sub.* for the second half. Performance instructions: "→ non arm." above the first half and "→ non arm." above the second half.

95

Musical score for measures 95-96. The score is in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. It features three staves: Treble, Bass, and a lower Treble staff. Measure 95: Treble staff has a whole rest. Bass staff has a half note G2 with a fermata, followed by a quarter note G2. Lower Treble staff has a half note G2 with a fermata, followed by a quarter note G2. Dynamics: *pp* for the first half, *f sub.* for the second half. Performance instructions: "→ non arm." above the first half and "→ non arm." above the second half. Measure 96: Treble staff has a whole rest. Bass staff has a half note G2 with a fermata, followed by a quarter note G2. Lower Treble staff has a half note G2 with a fermata, followed by a quarter note G2. Dynamics: *pp* for the first half, *f sub.* for the second half. Performance instructions: "→ non arm." above the first half and "→ non arm." above the second half.

97

Musical score for measures 97-99. The score is in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. It features three staves: Treble, Bass, and a lower Treble staff. Measure 97: Treble staff has a sixteenth-note triplet of G4, A4, B4, followed by a quarter rest. Bass staff has a half note G2 with a fermata, followed by a quarter note G2. Lower Treble staff has a half note G2 with a fermata, followed by a quarter note G2. Dynamics: *sfz* for the first half, *p* for the second half. Performance instructions: "non arm." above the first half and "→ non arm." above the second half. Measure 98: Treble staff has a whole rest. Bass staff has a half note G2 with a fermata, followed by a quarter note G2. Lower Treble staff has a half note G2 with a fermata, followed by a quarter note G2. Dynamics: *p* for the first half, *pp* for the second half. Performance instructions: "→ non arm." above the first half and "→ non arm." above the second half. Measure 99: Treble staff has a whole rest. Bass staff has a half note G2 with a fermata, followed by a quarter note G2. Lower Treble staff has a half note G2 with a fermata, followed by a quarter note G2. Dynamics: *p* for the first half, *pp* for the second half. Performance instructions: "non arm." above the first half and "ord." above the second half.

Musical score for measures 99-101. The score is written for three staves: Treble, Bass, and a lower Treble staff. Measure 99 features a long glissando in the Treble staff and a sequence of notes in the Bass staff with fingering 's.p.' and '0'. Measure 100 includes a 'gliss.' in the Treble staff, an 'ord.' in the Bass staff, and a 'pp' dynamic. Measure 101 shows a 'sfz' dynamic in the Bass staff and an '8vb' marking in the lower Treble staff.

J

Musical score for measures 102-104. The score is written for three staves: Treble, Bass, and a lower Treble staff. Measure 102 features a 'gliss.' in the Treble staff, a 'non arm.' instruction in the Bass staff, and a 'p' dynamic. Measure 103 includes a 'gliss.' in the Treble staff and an 's.t.' instruction in the Bass staff. Measure 104 shows a 'pp' dynamic in the Bass staff and a 'III' marking in the lower Treble staff.

Night Piece

Violin

SEÁN DOHERTY (b.1987)

A
Largo $\text{♩} = 40$
5 s.t.
pp *gliss.* *sfz* *p*

8 → non arm. **B**
gliss. *gliss.* 2

16 *pp* *gliss.* *p*

19 *pp* *gliss.* *mp*

22 *p* *gliss.* *mf* 8

C
25 *p* *gliss.* *f* 3

Violin

32 s.t. non arm.

pp *sfz* *p*

38 **D**

gliss. 2

42 unstable harmonics unmeasured trem. s.t.

pp *p* *p*

45

pp *mf* *mf*

48 ord.

pp *mf* *mf*

51 non arm.

pp *f* *f*

54 **E**

dolce 3

60 s.t. non arm.

pp *sfz* *p*

66 **F**

gliss. 2

Violin

70 s.t. → s.p.

73 s.t. → s.p.

76 s.t. → s.p.

79 s.t. → s.p.

82 s.t. → s.p.

84 →harm. (highest harm. poss., may be unstable)

gliss. (non-specified unstable harmonics)

4

G

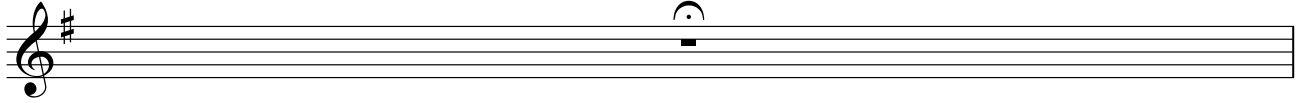
Violin

Optional cut to Rehearsal Mark **H** (non-staged performance)

vi -

Dreamer looks to Cello and nods head hopefully.
Cello shakes head, solemnly, in response.
Dreamer looks to Viola, who nods head solemnly.
Dreamer shakes head in disbelief.

87



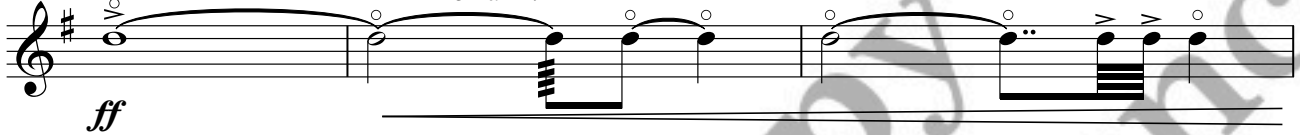
- de

H

8va

scratch tone

88



I

91

(8) ord.



96

s.t.



98

non arm.

J



Perusal Copy Performance

Night Piece

Viola

SEÁN DOHERTY (b.1987)

A

Largo $\text{♩} = 40$

2

Viola

29

→ non arm. → non arm.

pp *f sub.* *pp* *f sub.*

34

→ non arm. s.p. ord.

p *pp* *sfz*

38

D

40

unstable harmonics
unmeasured trem.
s.t.

43

46

49

ord.

52

non arm.

55

E

57 *pp* *f sub.* *pp* *f sub.*

62 *p* *pp* *sfz*

66 **F** ord.

68 s.t. s.p. *pp* *p*

71 s.t. s.p. *pp* *mp*

74 s.t. s.p. *p* *mf*

77 s.t. s.p. *mp* *f*

80 s.t. s.p. *mf* *f* *ff*

(highest harm. poss., may be unstable)

84 *fff*

G

Viola

Optional cut to Rehearsal Mark H (non-staged performance)

vi -

Dreamer looks to Cello and nods head hopefully.
Cello shakes head, solemnly, in response.
Dreamer looks to Viola, who nods head solemnly.
Dreamer shakes head in disbelief.

87

- de scratch tone

88

H

ff

91

I

fff

92

93

pp

f sub. > pp

f sub. >

99

p

pp

sfz

102

J

p

Night Piece

Violoncello

SEÁN DOHERTY (b.1987)

A

Largo ♩ = 40

s.t. IV

p *semplice* *pp* *f sub. >*

4

pp *f sub. >* *pp*

8

ord.

p

12 **B**

pp *gliss.*

15

pp *gliss.* *p* *gliss.*

18

pp *gliss.* *mp* *gliss.*

21

p *gliss.* *mf* *gliss.*

24

mp *gliss.* *f* *gliss.*

27 **C**

mf *pp sub.* *f sub. >* *pp* *f sub. >* *pp*

33

p

38 **D**

gliss.

unstable harmonics
unmeasured trem.

41 s.t.

pp *p* *pp*

44

pp *mp* *pp*

47 0 0

pp *mf* *pp*

50 0 0 ord.

pp *f* *pp*

53 0 non arm. **E**

pp *f* *pp*

57 III → non arm. → non arm. → non arm. s.p. 0 0

pp sub. *f sub. >* *pp* *f sub. >* *pp* *p*

62 ord.

pp *p* *pp*

8^{vb}...

66 **F**

Musical notation for measure 66 in bass clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It features a long, sustained note with a glissando effect indicated by the word "gliss." and a downward-pointing arrow. The note ends with a sharp attack.

69 s.t. → s.p.

Musical notation for measure 69 in bass clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It shows a glissando from a lower note to a higher one, marked "gliss." with an upward arrow. The dynamic changes from *pp* to *p*. The measure concludes with a glissando from a higher note to a lower one, also marked "gliss." with a downward arrow.

72 s.t. → s.p.

Musical notation for measure 72 in bass clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It features a glissando from a lower note to a higher one, marked "gliss." with an upward arrow. The dynamic is marked *mp*. The measure ends with a glissando from a higher note to a lower one, marked "gliss." with a downward arrow.

75 s.t. → s.p.

Musical notation for measure 75 in bass clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It shows a glissando from a lower note to a higher one, marked "gliss." with an upward arrow. The dynamic changes from *p* to *mf*. The measure concludes with a glissando from a higher note to a lower one, marked "gliss." with a downward arrow.

78 s.t. → s.p.

Musical notation for measure 78 in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It features a glissando from a lower note to a higher one, marked "gliss." with an upward arrow. The dynamic changes from *mp* to *f*. The measure ends with a glissando from a higher note to a lower one, marked "gliss." with a downward arrow.

81 s.t. → s.p.

Musical notation for measure 81 in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It shows a glissando from a lower note to a higher one, marked "gliss." with an upward arrow. The dynamic changes from *mf* to *f*. The measure concludes with a glissando from a higher note to a lower one, marked "gliss." with a downward arrow. Above the final note, there is a marking "→harm." indicating a harmonic.

(non-specified unstable harmonics)

(highest harm. poss., may be unstable)

Musical notation for measure 84 in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It features a glissando from a lower note to a higher one, marked "gliss." with an upward arrow. The dynamic changes from *ff* to *fff*. The measure concludes with a glissando from a higher note to a lower one, marked "gliss." with a downward arrow. Above the final note, there is a marking "→harm." indicating a harmonic.

G

Violoncello

Optional cut to Rehearsal Mark H (non-staged performance)

vi - Dreamer looks to Cello and nods head hopefully.
Cello shakes head, solemnly, in response.
Dreamer looks to Viola, who nods head solemnly.
Dreamer shakes head in disbelief.

87

H

- de

scratch tone

88

ff

91

fff

92

93

pp sub.

f sub.

pp

f sub.

96

pp

s.p.

0

0

ord.

99

8^{vb}

J

102 s.t.

mp

pp