

Matthew Whittall

From the edge of mist

(fantasia for cello alone)

1999, rev. 2010



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From the edge of mist (1999 rev. 2010)

From the edge of mist for solo cello was written during a short period in the summer of 1999, in tandem with my first string quartet, as a way of channeling ideas that resembled the quartet's handling of material, but didn't fit in with its more forward-driving nature. Funny then, that the vehicle I created for these "junk" ideas should have been the piece I would end up keeping, when the far longer and more elaborate quartet was withdrawn after a long-delayed first performance. The form of the piece is rhapsodic, essentially a set of double variations around the group of ideas heard in the introduction, and the quotation that grows out of it of a favorite tune of mine, the Scottish Highland ballad *Chi mi na mórbheanna* ("The mist-covered mountains"). The title, of course, refers to the song, as well as to the hazy boundaries between the various sections of the piece. From the edge of mist carries with it a tone of longing for home, a legacy, perhaps, of the song's words, but speaks more of my own status living far and away from the lands of my birth. Appropriately, the piece was premiered abroad by Canadian cellist Andrea Lysack, another current expatriate, and revised in 2010 for a recording at the request of Vernon Regehr. It is thus dedicated to both of them, in memory of the times we shared, and the distances we have crossed since.



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Freely, expressive
poco col legno
ten.

(continue ad lib.)

ord. $\text{J} = 54$

mp poco vib.

(Theme: "Chì mi na mórbheanna")

p no vib.

sempr. p

hold back

vib.

f

mp

<>

poco col legno

sul pont. (ord. bow)

ppp

p

pppp

pp

mp

pppp

pizz.

arco (ord.)

pp

sul A (drone pitch should sound as even as possible despite upcoming bow articulations)

mp

(arco)

f

sul D

sfz

sfz

sfz

sim.

Poco accel.

sfz

ff

All other harmonics on the indicated string.

Forward **hold back** **fast!**

ten. *mp* *mp*

sempre ff *sul pont.* *ord.* **Fast, light** $\text{♩} = 208$

mp *f*

mp *sub.f* *sub.mp* *sub.f*

mp

mf

f *mp*

mp

sub.p **ff**

f

sub.p **ff**

pizz. 2 **arco l.v.** **+ secco**

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3

poco f singing, mournful *molto ten.*

sim. *hold back*

mp *80 ca.* *hold back* *A tempo*

p rubato, improvisatory 5 5 5

mp intensifying gradually 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5

cresc. 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5

mf 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5

f 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5

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freely, fast

hold back

ff *forceful, passionate*

Calming

no vib.

mp

hold back

freely

Forward

mp

hold back

mf

f

sempre f

II

I

III

long

short

III

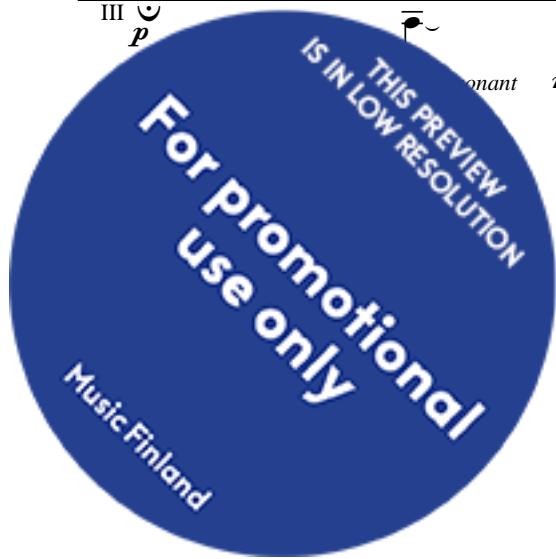
p

tonant

mp

p

(hold playing position)



Ottawa, July 7/1999
Helsinki, April 12/2010