



SUITE
FOR VIOLA ALONE

John Duke
(1899–1984)



AVS Publications 027

Preface

Born in Maryland, John Woods Duke (1899–1984) studied piano with Harold Randolph and composition with Gustav Strube at the Peabody Conservatory before moving to New York, where he furthered his composition studies with Bernard Wagenaar and Howard Brockway. In 1923 he began his lengthy career teaching at Smith College, taking a year’s sabbatical in 1929 for additional studies with Nadia Boulanger in Paris and Artur Schnabel in Berlin. Duke specialized in writing songs, and with more than 250 to his credit, he is considered one of America’s foremost composers of Art Songs. Less well-known are his instrumental works, which include several for viola: *Suite for Viola Alone* (1933), *Narrative for Viola and Piano* (1942), and *Melody in E-flat for Cello (or Viola) and Piano* (1946) as well as *Three Sonnets for Voice, Viola, and Piano* (1959).

This edition of the *Suite for Viola Alone* is based on two sources from the Moores School of Music Library, University of Houston: The Valley Music Press (VMP) edition, published in 1944, and the Independent Music Publishers (IMP) edition, reproduced from Duke’s 1933 holograph. An undated archival recording of Louise Rood performing this work housed in the John Duke Papers, 1913–1984, at the Smith College Archives unfortunately proved inaccessible, but this new AVS edition retains Rood’s primary fingerings from the VMP edition.

The VMP and IMP editions are very similar, mostly differing in specific instances of articulations and dynamics. Many of these differences appear to be refinements by Duke for the later VMP edition, but some articulations from the IMP edition appear to have been inadvertently omitted from the VMP edition. This AVS edition represents an attempt to reconcile the differences between the two earlier editions, and editorial decisions have been made without comment. Two substantial editorial issues, however, are noted below:

- The VMP edition includes metronome markings that are not present in the IMP edition. The editor has elected not to include these in the body of the AVS edition, but those metronome markings are listed here:

Movement I Aria: m. 1 $\text{♩} = 40$; m. 7 $\text{♩} = 138\text{--}144$; m. 57 (tempo giusto) $\text{♩} = 200$; m. 69 (a tempo) $\text{♩} = 138$

Movement II Scherzo: $\text{♩} = 168$

Movement III Cadenza: No metronome marking indicated

Movement IV Finale: $\text{♩} = 132\text{--}148$

- Movement I: m. 88: This measure is not in the IMP edition. While it is possible that a transcription error resulted in an additional measure of the tied b-flat in the VMP edition, Duke may have intentionally added this measure to provide a further sense of slowing down toward the end of the movement. The editor has elected to retain this additional measure.

This AVS edition is made possible by the generosity of the [John W. Duke estate](#).

David M. Bynog, editor

Suite for Viola Alone

I Aria

John Duke

Edited by David M. Bynog

Fingerings by Louise Rood

Lento

pp

più animato

p

mp cresc.

9

dim.

p

pp

17

mf

25

p

cresc.

34

dim.

p

f

42

f

p

pp

cresc. e accel.

51

ff

tempo giusto

60

sempre ff

rallentando

al

a tempo

pp

71

mf

ff

81

dim.

mf

dim.

90

p

ppp

II Scherzo

Allegro scherzando

mp

6

11

15

19

23

27

31

35

39

pp *f*

p Sul tasto

sf

II

44 *f* *p*

49 *p*

53 *pp*

57 *pp* *mp*

63 *pp* *mp*

68 *pp* *mp*

73 *pp* *ff*

77 *pp* *ff*

81 *dim.* *pp* *pp*

senza rit. pizz.

III Cadenza

Molto rubato

The musical score for the III Cadenza is written for Viola and consists of the following sections:

- Measures 1-5:** Bass clef, arco, *p*, triplets, *f*.
- Measures 6-9:** Bass clef, *p*, *rit.*, triplets, *accel.*, *cresc.*, *f*, *rit.*, *p*.
- Measures 10-14:** Treble clef, *accel.*, triplets, *cresc.*, *rit.*, *fp*, *ff*, *a tempo*.
- Measures 15-18:** Treble clef, *sempre ff*, triplets, *ff*.
- Measures 19-22:** Bass clef, *p*, *f*, triplets, *II*.
- Measures 23-26:** Treble clef, *p*, *rit.*, triplets, *accel.*, *molto cresc.*, *ff*, *mf*, *rit.*, *accel.*.
- Measures 27-30:** Treble clef, *cresc.*, triplets, *ff*, *rit.*, *dim.*, *p*, *ppp*, *attacca*.

IV Finale

The musical score for the IV Finale is written for Viola and consists of the following sections:

- Measures 1-4:** Bass clef, *Alla marcia*, *mf*, triplets, *II*.
- Measures 5-8:** Bass clef, triplets, *p*, *mf*.

9 *f* *ff* *mp* *f* *dim.* *p*

14 *cresc.* *mf* *dim.* *pp*

18 *f* *mf*

22 *pp* *mf*

27 *p* *mf* *cresc.* *ff* *dim.*

31 *pp* *mf* *p* *f* *cresc.*

36 *ff* *mf* *pp* *f* *cresc.* *poco rit.*

41 *a tempo* *ff* *mf* *cresc.*

47 *f*

53

58 *ff* *III* *rit.*



AVS Publications

VIOLA SOLO

Bob Cobert

Music for Only One Lonely Viola.
AVS 028

John Duke

Suite for Viola Alone. AVS 027

Ivan Langstroth

Viola Suite. AVS 022

Quincy Porter

Suite for Viola Alone. AVS 008

Frederick Slee

Variations on a Hymn Tune for Solo
Viola. AVS 003

VIOLA AND PIANO

Blanche Blood

Barcarolle for Viola and Piano. AVS
002

Léo Delibes

La Paix, from Coppélia, for Viola and
Piano. AVS 023

Arthur Foote

Melody for Viola and Piano, op. 44a.
AVS 015

Carl Fuerstner

Two Pieces for Viola and Piano. AVS
021

Quincy Porter

Speed Etude for Viola and Piano.
AVS 007

Gustav Strube

Regrets for Viola and Piano. AVS 010

Theodore Thomas

Divertissement for Viola and Piano.
AVS 006

VIOLIN AND VIOLA

Louise Lincoln Kerr

Etude. AVS 020

J. N. Pychowski

Perpetual Canon. AVS 017

TWO VIOLAS

Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy

Canon for Two Violas. AVS 004

THREE VIOLAS

Scott Slapin

Capricious. AVS 012

VIOLA ENSEMBLE (FOUR OR MORE)

J. S. Bach

Sinfonia from the Cantata: Gleichwie
der Regen und Schnee vom Himmel
fällt. AVS 005

Léo Delibes

La Paix, from Coppélia, for Solo
Viola and Viola Quartet. AVS 023a

Matthias Durst

Adagio for Four Violas. AVS 001

Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy

Adagio from String Sinfonia VIII.
AVS 011a

Hendrik Waelput

Cantabile for Four Violas. AVS 018

Max von Weinzierl

Nachtstück für 4 Violen, op. 34. AVS
009

VIOLA AND ORCHESTRA

Cecil Forsyth

The Dark Road for Viola and String
Orchestra. AVS 024

W. A. Mozart

Principal Viola Part for Sinfonia
Concertante, K. 364, Extended
Scordatura Edition. AVS 019

Principal Viola Part for Sinfonia
Concertante, K. 364, Scordatura
Edition. AVS 019a

G. P. Telemann

Concerto for Two Violettas, TWV
52:G3. Critical Edition Including
Alternative Scordatura Solo Parts.
AVS 025

MIXED ENSEMBLES

J. S. Bach

Chorale: Ich, dein betrubtes Kind, for
Soprano, Viola obligata, and Continuo
from the Cantata Mein Herze
schwimmt im Blut. AVS 013

Ergieße dich reichlich, du göttliche
Quelle, Aria for Tenor, Viola, and
Continuo from the Cantata Wo soll
ich fliehen hin. AVS 014

Sinfonia from the Cantata: Gleichwie
der Regen und Schnee vom Himmel
fällt. AVS 005

Michael Colgrass

Revisions to Variations for Four
Drums and Viola. AVS 016

Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy

Adagio from String Sinfonia VIII.
AVS 011

Quincy Porter

Little Trio (Suite in E Major) for Flute,
Violin, and Viola. AVS 026

