



THE DARK ROAD

THEME FOR VIOLA SOLO
AND STRING ORCHESTRA

Cecil Forsyth
(1870–1941)



AVS Publications 024

Preface

The Anglo-American violist and composer Cecil Forsyth never matched the early success of his Viola Concerto, which premiered at a 1903 Promenade concert to much acclaim. Enjoying wide popularity for the next quarter century, the concerto fell out of favor as other twentieth-century viola concertos by more prominent composers appeared. Fortunately the concerto has enjoyed a resurgence in the twenty-first century, admired for its melodic bravura, dramatic intensity, and lush lyricism.

Forsyth turned to the medium of viola and orchestra on two other occasions: in 1905 with *Chanson Celtique*, a work that also enjoyed modest popularity, and in 1922 with *The Dark Road*, for viola and string orchestra. *The Dark Road* premiered on November 27, 1922, with Mrs. Schradieck Aue as soloist at the inaugural concert for the Montclair Art Association Orchestra, the predecessor of the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra. According to the program notes from that concert, the work is “practically formed out of one very simple six-note theme. This is treated for many measures with considerable sombreness and severity of effect; but later gives way to a sweeter version of itself (in the major) which is built up to a climax. This leads, by means of a little ‘bridge-passage,’ to a return of the original subject.”

The work’s somber mood and repetitive treatment of the thematic material did not captivate the attention of violists, though an arrangement for solo organ fared better. The composition, however, exhibits Forsyth’s skill at melody and orchestration, and it is an important contribution to the early repertoire of American music written for viola and string orchestra. This new edition is based on the score and set of parts published by H. W. Gray in 1922.

David M. Bynog, editor

The Dark Road

Theme for Viola Solo and String Orchestra

Cecil Forsyth

Edited by David M. Bynog

Largo sostenuto (♩ = about 60)

1

Solo Viola

Violin I

Violin II

Viola

Cello

Bass

Con sord.

ppp

poco

ppp

poco

pp

pp

10

2

p

pp subito

pp subito

18

p subito

pp *poco cresc.* *pp subito*

pp *poco cresc.* *pp subito*

3

mf *cresc.*

p *poco cresc.*

p *poco cresc.*

p *poco cresc.*

p *poco cresc.*

Forsyth - The Dark Road

4

30

mf

mf

p subito

mf

p subito

mf

p subito

mf

p subito

mf

p subito

35

cresc.

poco cresc.

poco cresc.

poco cresc.

poco cresc.

poco cresc.

40

5

mf *f* *p* *mf*

44

mp *mf* *mp* *p* *mp* *p*

Forsyth - The Dark Road

48 *rit.* **6** *a tempo*
molto dolce, espress.

p *pp* *pp* *pp* *pp* *p*

54

mp *espress.* *espress.* *pizz.* *arco* *p*

60

f Poco stringendo Poco stringendo Poco più mosso

cresc. *mf* Senza sord. *f*

cresc. *mf* Senza sord. *f*

cresc. *mf* Senza sord. Div. *f*

cresc. *mf* *f*

Senza sord. *f*

p cresc. *mf* *f*

67

f *broad* *poco allarg.*

fmp *mp*

fmp *mp* *mp*

Unis. *mp*

fmp *mp*

pizz. *arco* *mp*

fmp *mp*

Forsyth - The Dark Road

74

rit. cresc. *ff* *dim.* *rit.*

cresc. *f*

cresc. *f*

cresc. *f*

cresc. *f*

cresc. *f*

Con sord.

Con sord.

Con sord.

Con sord.

Con sord.

Con sord.

82

Tempo I

p *mf* *mp*

mp *p* *mp* *p*

mp *p* *mp* *p*

mp *p* *mp* *p*

mp *p* *mp* *p*

mp *p* *mp* *p*

86

mf *mp* *p*

mp *p* *pp*

mp *p* *pp*

mp *p* *pp*

mp *p* *p*

mp *p* *p*

9

91

p subito

pp *poco cresc.* *pp subito*

pp *poco cresc.* *pp subito*

Forsyth - The Dark Road

10

p *dim.*

dim. sempre

dim. sempre

106

p

Senza sord. \vee

p

(Con sord.) *pp*

(Con sord.) *pp*

Div. *pp*

The Dark Road

Solo Viola

Theme for Viola Solo and String Orchestra

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Largo sostenuto (♩ = about 60)

8 1 8 2

p

21 3 1

p subito

26 *mf* *cresc.*

31 4 1

mf

36 *cresc.*

40 5 1

mf *mp*

45 *mf* *mp* *rit.*

6 *molto dolce, espress. a tempo*

p

54 *mp*

Forsyth - The Dark Road - Solo Viola

2

59 *Poco stringendo*

64 *Poco più mosso* *broad*

73 *poco allarg.*

83 *rit.* *Tempo I*

83 *mf* *mp* *mf*

88 *mp* *p*

93 *p subito*

103 *p*

103 *dim.*

108 *p*

The Dark Road

Violin I

Theme for Viola Solo and String Orchestra

Cecil Forsyth

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Largo sostenuto (♩ = about 60)

Con sord. 8 **1** 8 **2** 8 **3** 3 3 3 3 *p*

27 *poco cresc.* *mf* *p subito* **4**

34 *poco cresc.* *mf* **5**

f *p* *mf* *p* *mp*

47 *rit.* **6** *a tempo* *p* *pp* *p*

54 *espress.*

60 *cresc.* **Poco stringendo** *mf*

7 **Poco più mosso** *Senza sord.* *f* *fmp* **8** **4** *Con sord.*

72 *mp* *poco allarg.* *rit.* *cresc.* *f*

82 **Tempo I** *mp* *p* *mp* *p* *mp*

88 **9** **7** **10** **10** *p* *pp* *Senza sord.* *p*

The Dark Road

Violin II

Theme for Viola Solo and String Orchestra

Cecil Forsyth

Edited by David M. Bynog

Largo sostenuto (♩ = about 60)

Con sord. 8 1 8 2 8 3 3 3 3 3

27 *poco cresc.* 4 *mf* *p subito*

34 *poco cresc.* *mf*

5 *f* *p* *mf* *p* *mp* *p*

48 *rit.* 6 *a tempo* *pp* *p*

55 *cresc.* *p*

61 *Poco stringendo* *mf* 7 *Poco più mosso* 1 *Senza sord.* *f*

67 *fmp* *mp* *mp*

73 *poco allarg.* *rit. cresc.* 8 4 *Con sord.* *f*

82 *Tempo I* *mp* *p* *mp* *p* *mp*

88 9 7 10 12 *Div.* 18 *(Con sord.)* *pp*

The Dark Road

Viola

Theme for Viola Solo and String Orchestra

Cecil Forsyth

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Largo sostenuto (♩ = about 60)

Con sord. 8 1 8 2 8 3

p

27 4

poco cresc. *mf* *p subito*

34

poco cresc. *mf*

5

f *mf* *p* *mp*

47 *rit.* 6 *a tempo*

p *pp* *p*

54

60 *Poco stringendo*

cresc. *mf*

7 *Poco più mosso*

Senza sord. *f* *mp* *Unis.*

73 *poco allarg.* 8 **4** *Con sord.*

rit. cresc. *f*

82 *Tempo I*

mp *mp* *p* *mp*

88 9 **7** 10 **11** (*Con sord.*)

p *pp* *pp*

The Dark Road

Cello

Theme for Viola Solo and String Orchestra

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Largo sostenuto (♩ = about 60)

Con sord. 2

2

50

Musical staff 50-55. Bass clef, key signature of two flats. Measures 50-55. Dynamics: *p* (piano), *espress.* (espressivo). Includes a fermata over measure 55.

56

Musical staff 56-60. Bass clef, key signature of two flats. Measures 56-60. Dynamics: *cresc.* (crescendo). Includes hairpins and slurs.

61

Poco stringendo

7 Poco più mosso

Musical staff 61-66. Bass clef, key signature of two flats. Measures 61-66. Dynamics: *poco a poco senza sord.* (poco a poco senza sordina), *mf* (mezzo-forte), *f* (forte). Includes hairpins and slurs.

67

Musical staff 67-72. Bass clef, key signature of two flats. Measures 67-72. Dynamics: *fmp* (forzando mezzo-piano). Includes slurs and accents.

73

poco allarg.

8

4 Con sord.

Musical staff 73-81. Bass clef, key signature of two flats. Measures 73-81. Dynamics: *mp* (mezzo-piano), *rit. cresc.* (ritardando crescendo), *f* (forte). Includes hairpins, slurs, and a fermata over measure 81.

82

Tempo I

Musical staff 82-86. Bass clef, key signature of two flats. Measures 82-86. Dynamics: *mp* (mezzo-piano), *p* (piano), *mp* (mezzo-piano), *p* (piano). Includes slurs and accents.

87

9

Musical staff 87-92. Bass clef, key signature of two flats. Measures 87-92. Dynamics: *mp* (mezzo-piano), *p* (piano), *p* (piano), *pp* (pianissimo). Includes slurs and accents.

93

10

Musical staff 93-98. Bass clef, key signature of two flats. Measures 93-98. Dynamics: *poco cresc.* (poco crescendo), *pp subito* (pianissimo subito), *dim. sempre* (diminuendo sempre). Includes slurs and accents.

99

Musical staff 99-105. Bass clef, key signature of two flats. Measures 99-105. Dynamics: *pp* (pianissimo). Includes slurs and accents.

106

Musical staff 106-110. Bass clef, key signature of two flats. Measures 106-110. Dynamics: *pp* (pianissimo). Includes slurs and accents.

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Bass

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Largo sostenuto (♩ = about 60)

Con sord.

1

7

13

19

3

31

4

38

5

44

6

ppp *poco* *pp* *pp subito* *pp* *poco cresc.* *p* *poco cresc.* *mf* *p subito* *poco cresc.* *mf* *f* *p* *mf* *rit.* *a tempo* *pp*

51 **1** pizz. **1** arco **4** Senza sord.

61 **Poco stringendo** **7** **Poco più mosso**

67 pizz. **fmp**

72 arco **poco allarg.** rit. **8** **4** Con sord.

82 **Tempo I**

88 **9** **1** **pp**

94 **10**

100

106



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Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy
Canon for Two Violas. AVS 004

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VIOLA ENSEMBLE (FOUR OR MORE)

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

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Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy
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Hendrik Waelput
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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

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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

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Adagio from String Sinfonia VIII. AVS 011

