



The American Viola Society

---

ADAGIO  
FOR FOUR VIOLAS

---

Matthias Durst  
(1815-1875)



---

AVS Publications 001

# Preface

Matthias Durst (1815–1875) was a violinist, violist, and composer from Vienna. For many years he played second violin and viola with the famed Hellmesberger Quartet, the leading quartet in Vienna during the middle of the nineteenth century. Durst's compositions include solo and concertante works for the violin, string quartets, and orchestral music.

The edition for this short piece is based on a manuscript housed in the Richard Stoelzer (1864–1947) Collection in the Adelphi University Archives and Special Collections, (Garden City, New York). Originally from Germany, Stoelzer spent the majority of his career playing viola and viola d'amore in the United States. The manuscript, which includes a score and parts for four violas, is in Stoelzer's hand. Given the unusual instrumentation, the idiomatic treatment of the viola ensemble, and the relative obscurity of Durst as a composer, it is probable that this is an original work rather than an arrangement by Stoelzer, though the circumstances of its composition are unknown.

David M. Bynog, editor  
February 2010

## **2016 Revised Edition Note**

The 2009 edition and 2015 reprinting reproduced m. 13 as it appears in the manuscript. For this 2016 edition, an editorial g-sharp has been added in the Viola 1 line (good throughout the entire measure), which the editor believes is lacking in the manuscript.

# Adagio for Four Violas

Matthias Durst  
Edited by David M. Bynog

## Adagio

The musical score is arranged in four staves, labeled Viola 1, Viola 2, Viola 3, and Viola 4. The key signature is one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 3/4. The score is divided into three systems of four measures each. The first system (measures 1-4) begins with a *p* dynamic. The second system (measures 5-8) continues the melodic lines. The third system (measures 9-12) features a *f* dynamic in measures 9 and 10, followed by a *p* dynamic in measure 11, and a *cresc.* marking in measure 12. The final system (measures 13-16) starts with a *f* dynamic in measure 13, followed by a *p* dynamic in measure 14, and a *cresc.* marking in measure 15. The score concludes with a double bar line in measure 16.

18

dim. p

dim. p

dim. p

dim. p

Musical score for measures 18-24, featuring four staves with various musical notations including dynamics (dim., p), articulation (accents), and phrasing (breathes).

25

Musical score for measures 25-28, featuring four staves with various musical notations including phrasing (breathes) and articulation (accents).

29

ff

ff

ff

ff

Musical score for measures 29-32, featuring four staves with various musical notations including dynamics (ff), articulation (accents), and phrasing (breathes).



# Adagio for Four Violas

## VIOLA 1

Matthias Durst  
Edited by David M. Bynog

### Adagio

Vla. 4      Vla. 3      Vla. 2

7

13 *f*      *p*      *cresc.*

18 *dim.*      *p*

25

30 *ff*      *dim.*

36 Vla. 4      Vla. 3      Vla. 2

42 *ff*      *dim.*      *p*      *pp*

49 *f*      *p*

# Adagio for Four Violas

## VIOLA 2

Matthias Durst  
Edited by David M. Bynog

### Adagio

Violin 4 (Vla. 4) and Violin 3 (Vla. 3) parts are indicated above the staff. The score is written in 3/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The piece begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic. Measure 7 starts with a forte (*f*) dynamic. Measure 13 features a crescendo (*cresc.*) leading to a piano (*p*) dynamic. Measure 18 includes a decrescendo (*dim.*) and a piano (*p*) dynamic. Measure 25 continues with a piano (*p*) dynamic. Measure 30 features a fortissimo (*ff*) dynamic. Measure 36 includes a fortissimo (*ff*) dynamic. Measure 43 features a decrescendo (*dim.*) and a pianissimo (*pp*) dynamic. Measure 49 features a forte (*f*) dynamic.

# Adagio for Four Violas

## VIOLA 3

Matthias Durst  
Edited by David M. Bynog

### Adagio

Vla. 4

7

13

19

26

30

36

43

50

*p*

*f*

*cresc.*

*dim.*

*p*

*ff*

*dim.*

*pp*

*f*

*p*



# Adagio for Four Violas

VIOLA 4

Matthias Durst  
Edited by David M. Bynog

## Adagio

7

13

19

25

30

36

43

49

*p*

*f*

*p*

*cresc.*

*dim.*

*p*

*ff*

*dim.*

*ff*

*dim.*

*p*

*pp*

*f*

*p*

1

7

13

19

25

30

36

43

49

52



#### 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

**Jeong Eun Park**  
Mook Nyum (A Moment of Silence). AVS 039

**Frederick Slee**  
Variations on a Hymn Tune for Solo Viola.  
AVS 003

#### TWO VIOLAS

**Bob Cobert**  
Three Moods for Two Violas. AVS 030

**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

**Santiago E. Osorio**  
Theme Envy for Four Violas or Four-Part  
Viola Ensemble. AVS 042

**Hendrik Waelput**  
Cantabile for Four Violas. AVS 018

**Max von Weinzierl**  
Nachtstück für 4 Violen, op. 34. AVS 009

#### VIOLA AND PIANO

**Jeanne Behrend**  
Lamentation for Viola and Piano. AVS 035

**Blanche Blood**  
Barcarolle for Viola and Piano. AVS 002

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

**Ernő Dohnányi**  
Intermezzo, from Symphony No. 1, for Viola  
and Piano. AVS 040a

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

**Peter Racine Fricker**  
Fantasy for Viola and Piano, op. 44. AVS 032

**Carl Fuerstner**  
Two Pieces for Viola and Piano. AVS 021

**Henry Holden Huss**  
Sonata Movement for Viola and Piano.  
AVS 034

**Fritz Kreisler/William Primrose**  
Allegretto in the Style of Boccherini for Viola  
and Piano. AVS 038

Polichinelle for Viola and Piano. AVS 037

**Edna Frida Pietsch**  
Andante Cantabile for Viola and Piano.  
AVS 033

**Quincy Porter**  
Speed Etude for Viola and Piano. AVS 007

**Ferdinand Praeger**  
Elegy for Viola and Piano. AVS 031

**Gustav Strube**  
Regrets for Viola and Piano. AVS 010

**Theodore Thomas**  
Divertissement for Viola and Piano. AVS 006

**Fidelis Zitterbart Jr.**  
Sonata No. 2 in G Minor for Viola and Piano.  
AVS 041

#### VIOLIN AND VIOLA

**Louise Lincoln Kerr**  
Etude. AVS 020

**J. N. Pychowski**  
Perpetual Canon. AVS 017

#### VIOLA AND ORCHESTRA

**Ernő Dohnányi**  
Intermezzo, from Symphony No. 1. AVS 040

**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

Hochgelobter Gottessohn, Aria for Alto, Viola,  
and Continuo from the Cantata Bleib bei uns,  
denn es will Abend werden. AVS 029

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

**Jules Massenet/William Primrose**  
Élégie for Voice, Viola, and Piano. AVS 036

**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