



Frank Bridge
(1879–1941)

Lament for Two Violas
(c. 1911–12)

Edited by Christine Rutledge

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Preface

Composer Frank Bridge (1879–1941) wrote the *Lament*¹ for two violas as part of a pair of viola duos, which were debuted on March 18, 1912, with the composer and Lionel Tertis performing.² The performance, which took place at Bechstein Hall (now Wigmore Hall), was part of a concert featuring the works of four young British composers: Cyril Scott, Benjamin Dale, York Bowen, and Bridge.³ No holograph of the *Lament* has been found, but sketches exist (upon which this edition is based) in the Parry Room Library at the Royal College of Music in London.⁴ An edition by Paul Hindmarsh was performed on February 12, 1980 (the work's second known performance), at the British Music Information Centre by Michael Ponder and Thomas Tichauer.

In the sketches of the *Lament* it is fairly easy to decipher the composer's intentions, despite the "sloppy" writing. In this edition I have tried to be as faithful to Bridge's notations as possible. Any editorial changes have been clearly marked with footnotes, in parentheses or brackets, or with dotted lines.

Lament is clearly an important work in the viola duo literature, especially the vast body of solo and viola ensemble repertoire of the early-twentieth-century British composers, thanks to the great violist Lionel Tertis, who commissioned and inspired them.

I would like to give special thanks to the Library of the Royal College of Music in London for providing a copy of Bridge's sketches. Also, thanks to the work of Paul Hindmarsh, whose original edition and notes were of great value when preparing this edition.

Christine Rutledge
May 26, 2008

¹ The titles *Lament* and *Caprice* were not given by Bridge. Though their origin is unknown, they appear as a listing in Franz Zeyringer's *The Literature for the Viola*.

² The other of the pair, the *Caprice*, only exists as fragments in a sketch with the *Lament*.

³ All four composers ended up writing several important works for the viola for Tertis.

⁴ Frank Bridge Collection, category XV, three leaves of ink sketches.

Lament for Two Violas

(composed c. 1911-12)

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(Adagio espressivo)

Viola I

Viola II

7 *p dolce*

15 *mf* *f* *mf* *pp* *p dolce* *p*

21 *p* *pp* *p* *f* *mf* *pp* *f*

28 *f* *mf* *cresc.* *poco accel.* *f* *f*

33 *f* *[cresc.]* *ff** *f*

a tempo primo

ff (*ms. gives "8va" here, as it is in the ending)

37

[poco rall.]

a tempo

sostenuto

f

[sostenuto]

p

p

[cresc.]

[cresc.]

43

[poco rit.]

[a tempo]

[mf]

pizz.

[mf]

p

48

arco

[p]

[pizz.]

[p]

[p]

53

[mp]

arco

[mp]

57

[mf]

[mf]

pizz.

[mf]

60 3

[cresc.]

[cresc.]

63

[f]

[f]

67 **rall.**

dim.

dim.

71 **[a tempo primo]**

pp

p

77

[cresc.]

[mf]

[cresc.]

[mf]

83 [rall.] [a tempo]

[dim.] [p] 3

87

3 6

90

3 3 3 f p pp

95

p p f 3 [f]

101 poco accel.

mf [cresc.] f 3 [mf] [cresc.] 3

106

ff *ff* [*cresc.*]

ff *ff* [*cresc.*]

111

a tempo primo

rall.

[a tempo]

ff [*dim.*]

[*p*]

[*p*] (*bottom C in mm.
115-117 is not in ms.)

117

123

128

pizz.

pp
arco

pp