

Divertimento I in F Major

for

Three Violas

Originally for Three Bass Horns, KV 439b

by

W. A. Mozart

Score

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## Editor's Comment

*Divertimento I, KV 439b*, is found in *W. A. Mozart: Neue Ausgabe sämtlicher Werke*, with the information that it was composed sometime between 1783 and 1788. It is the first of five such pieces scored for three basset horns. The ranges of basset horn and viola are similar, and the two instruments, seem to share a popular 21st century identity, both being devoutly middle-range, somewhat covered in timbre, not slow, but primarily not devoted to virtuosity, useful for blending or fitting-in, supplying richness and pleasing, colorful texture. Perhaps the similar personalities of players drawn to these instruments is enough to justify the little adjustment necessary to make this music available to violists, enriching their repertory, and providing a wider reception than would be found in the basset horn community.

Mozart wrote more than a smattering of music for the basset horn, at a time when the identity of the instrument was not yet well established. These five works, which are a significant effort in this medium, stand out in the literature as trios for three identical instruments. This is clearly "commercial" Mozart . . . garden-party or social background music. It is not serious in execution or presentation, but even the flossiest Mozart has wit, charm, and beauty in abundance.

T. H.

# I

## Allegro

Allegro ♩ = 138

Viola 1

*f* *p* *f* *p*

Viola 2

*f* *p* *f* *p*

Viola 3

*f* *f* *p*

Vla. 1

*f*

Vla. 2

*f*

Vla. 3

*f*

Vla. 1

*p*

Vla. 2

*p*

Vla. 3

*p*

Vla. 1

Vla. 2

Vla. 3

Allegro

37

Vla. 1

Vla. 2

Vla. 3

*f* *p* *f*

*f* *p* *f*

*f* *p*

46

Vla. 1

Vla. 2

Vla. 3

*p* *f* *f* *p*

*p* *f* *f*

*p* *f* *f* *p*

55

Vla. 1

Vla. 2

Vla. 3

*p*

63

Vla. 1

Vla. 2

Vla. 3

*p*

Allegro

72

Vla. 1

Vla. 2

Vla. 3

*f* *p* *f* *p*

*f* *p* *f* *p*

*f* *f* *p*

81

Vla. 1

Vla. 2

Vla. 3

*f*

*f*

*f*

90

Vla. 1

Vla. 2

Vla. 3

*p*

*p*

*p*

99

Vla. 1

Vla. 2

Vla. 3

*p*

Allegro

108

Vla. 1

Vla. 2

Vla. 3

*f* *p* *f*

*f* *p* *f*

*f* *p* *f*

116

Vla. 1

Vla. 2

Vla. 3

*p* *f*

*p* *f*

*p* *f*

# Menuetto I

Viola 1  
*p* *f*

Viola 2  
*p* *f*

Viola 3  
*p* *f*

Vla. 1  
*p*

Vla. 2  
*p*

Vla. 3  
*p*

Vla. 1  
*f* *p*

Vla. 2  
*f* *p*

Vla. 3  
*f* *p*

Vla. 1  
*f*

Vla. 2  
*f*

Vla. 3  
*f*

Menuetto I

27

Vla. 1

Vla. 2

Vla. 3

*p*

*p*

*p*

1. 2.

Trio

33

Vla. 1

Vla. 2

Vla. 3

*f* *p* *f* *p*

*f* *p* *f* *p*

*f* *p* *f* *p*

1. 2.

41

Vla. 1

Vla. 2

Vla. 3

*f* *p* *f* *p*

*f* *p* *f* *p*

*f* *p* *f* *p*

1. 2.

Menuetto da capo



# III Adagio

Adagio ♩ = 62

Violino I  
*p* *f* *p*

Violino II  
*p* *f* *p*

Violino III  
*p* *f* *p*

Vla. 1  
*sf* *p* *p* *cresc.*

Vla. 2  
*sf* *p* *p* *cresc.*

Vla. 3  
*sf* *p* *p* *cresc.*

Vla. 1  
*f* *p* *f* *p* *f*

Vla. 2  
*f* *p* *f* *p* *f*

Vla. 3  
*f* *p* *f* *p* *f*

Vla. 1  
*p*

Vla. 2  
*p*

Vla. 3  
*p*

Detailed description: This page contains the musical score for three violas (Vla. 1, 2, and 3) in measures 1 through 20. The score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The tempo is Adagio, with a metronome marking of ♩ = 62. The first system (measures 1-7) shows the violas playing a melodic line with dynamics ranging from piano (*p*) to forte (*f*). The second system (measures 8-12) features a dynamic shift to *sf* (sforzando) and includes a crescendo section. The third system (measures 13-18) continues with dynamic contrasts between *f* and *p*. The final system (measures 19-20) concludes with a sustained *p* dynamic.

# IV

## Menuetto II

Menuetto  $\text{♩} = 114$

Viola 1  
*p f p f p f*

Viola 2  
*f p f p f*

Viola 3  
*f p f p f*

Vla. 1  
*f p f p f*

Vla. 2  
*f p f p f*

Vla. 3  
*f p f p f*

Vla. 1

Vla. 2

Vla. 3

### Trio

Vla. 1  
*p fp fp*

Vla. 2  
*p*

Vla. 3  
*p fp fp*

Menuetto II

27

Vla. 1

Vla. 2

Vla. 3

34

Vla. 1

Vla. 2

Vla. 3

*fp*

41

Vla. 1

Vla. 2

Vla. 3

*fp*

Menuetto da capo

V  
Rondo

Viola 1  
Viola 2  
Viola 3

*f*

Vla. 1  
Vla. 2  
Vla. 3

9

Vla. 1  
Vla. 2  
Vla. 3

16

*p*

Vla. 1  
Vla. 2  
Vla. 3

23

*f*

Rondo

30

Vla. 1

Vla. 2

Vla. 3

*p*

*f*

37

Vla. 1

Vla. 2

Vla. 3

45

Vla. 1

Vla. 2

Vla. 3

*p*

*p*

*p*

52

Vla. 1

Vla. 2

Vla. 3

Rondo

59

Vla. 1

Vla. 2

Vla. 3

*f*

66

Vla. 1

Vla. 2

Vla. 3

*f*

*p*

74

Vla. 1

Vla. 2

Vla. 3

*p*

*f*

82

Vla. 1

Vla. 2

Vla. 3

*f*

*p*

Rondo

90

Vla. 1

Vla. 2

Vla. 3

*p*

*f*

*f*

98

Vla. 1

Vla. 2

Vla. 3

*p*

*p*

*p*

106

Vla. 1

Vla. 2

Vla. 3

*f*

*f*

*f*