

Stephen Mitton

*A Walk Through
the Seasons*

For String Quartet



Approx. 9:00

- I. Autumn Amble
- II. Winter Wander
- III. Spring Shuffle
- IV. Summer Stroll

About this Piece:

A Walk Through the Seasons is an ideal introduction to chamber music for young and intermediate-level string players. Each movement provides the opportunity to navigate changing key areas and textures while capturing the feeling of leisurely walks in the fallen leaves of autumn, the crisp snows of winter, the soft breezes of spring, or the warm air of summer (not unlike Antonio Vivaldi's celebrated *Four Seasons* concerti).

I have done my best to make the four parts equal in most of the writing so that all performers have a chance to shine, although "Spring Shuffle" gives the first violin a chance to show off a bit and even play some double-stops!

-Stephen Mitton

Score

A Walk Through the Seasons

I. Autumn Amble

Stephen Mitton
(2025)

Cheerfully ♩ = 60

The score is for four instruments: Violin I, Violin II, Viola, and Cello. It is in 3/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The tempo is marked 'Cheerfully' with a quarter note equal to 60 beats per minute. The dynamics are as follows:

- Violin I:** Starts at *mf* in measure 1. In measure 5, it has a **A** section marked 'pizz.'.
- Violin II:** Starts at *mp* in measure 2. Dynamics include *p*, *mf*, and *p* in measures 1-4. In measure 5, it has a *mp* section marked 'pizz.'.
- Viola:** Starts at *mp* in measure 2. Dynamics include *p*, *mf*, and *p* in measures 1-4. In measure 5, it has a *mp* section marked 'pizz.'.
- Cello:** Starts at *mp* in measure 2. Dynamics include *p*, *mf*, *p*, and *mf* in measures 1-5.

A large 'PREVIEW' watermark is visible across the score.

This score is not authorized for performance. Authorized copies can be purchased at www.stephenmitton.com

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10

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

arco

mf arco

mp

mf

mf

mp

mf

mp

16

B

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

f

mf

mp

f

mf

mp

f

mf

mp

21 C

Vln. I *mf* *mp* *p*

Vln. II *mf* *mp* *p*

Vla. *mf* *mp* *p*

Vc. *mf* *mp* *p*

26 D

Vln. I *mp* *mf* *f* *mp* pizz.

Vln. II *mp* *mf* *f* *mp* *p* pizz.

Vla. *mp* *mf* *f* *mp* *p* pizz.

Vc. *mp* *mf* *f* *mp* *p* pizz.

31

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

mf
arco

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

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

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

37

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

mp

mp *p* *fp* *mp* *f*

mp *p* *fp* *mp* *f*

mp *p* *fp* *mp* *f*

mp *p* *fp* *mp* *f*

II. Winter Wander

Melancholic ♩ = 63

The image displays a musical score for four instruments: Violin I, Violin II, Viola, and Cello. The score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The tempo is marked as 'Melancholic' with a quarter note equal to 63 beats per minute. The first system (measures 1-4) features Violin I with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic, while Violin II, Viola, and Cello all play with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The second system (measures 5-8) shows a dynamic shift: Violin I moves to forte (*f*) and then mezzo-forte (*mf*); Violin II, Viola, and Cello move to mezzo-piano (*mp*) and then forte (*f*), before returning to mezzo-piano (*mp*) in the final measure. A large, semi-transparent watermark reading 'PREVIEW' is overlaid diagonally across the score.

A

To Coda

Musical score for measures 1-12, marked "To Coda". The score is for four staves: Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., and Vc. The key signature is one flat (B-flat). The dynamics are *p* (piano) and *mf* (mezzo-forte). The Vln. I and Vla. parts start with *p* and transition to *mf*. The Vc. part starts with *p* and transitions to *mf*. The Vln. II part starts with *p* and transitions to *mf*. The score includes a large watermark reading "PREVIEW".

Musical score for measures 13-16. The score is for four staves: Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., and Vc. The key signature is one flat (B-flat). The dynamics are *f* (forte). The Vln. I, Vln. II, and Vla. parts start with *f*. The Vc. part starts with *f*. The score includes a large watermark reading "PREVIEW".

B

17

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

mf *mp* *mf*

mf *mp* *mf*

mf *mp* *p* *mp*

mf *mp* *p* *mp*

C

22

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

p *mf*

p *mf*

p *mp* *mf*

mf

26 D.C. al Coda

Vln. I *f* *p* *mf*

Vln. II *f* *p* *mp*

Vla. *f* *p* *mp*

Vc. *f* *p* *mp* *p*

D *rit.*

Vln. I *mf* *mp* *p*

Vln. II *mp* *p*

Vla. *mp* *p*

Vc. *mf* *mp* *p*

III. Spring Shuffle

Playfully $\text{♩} = 56$

A

The musical score is arranged in two systems. The first system includes Violin I, Violin II, Viola, and Cello. The second system includes Violin I, Violin II, Viola, and Cello. The key signature is two sharps (D major), and the time signature is 3/4. The score features various dynamics including *p*, *pizz.*, and *mf*. A large watermark 'PREVIEW' is overlaid on the score.

Violin I: Starts with a whole rest for the first three measures, then enters in the fourth measure with a melody starting on G4, marked *mf*.

Violin II: Plays a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes starting from the first measure, marked *p*.

Viola: Plays a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes starting from the first measure, marked *p*.

Cello: Plays a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes starting from the first measure, marked *p* and *pizz.*

Violin I (System 2): Continues the melody from the first system, marked *mf*. It features a triplet of eighth notes in measure 7 and a slur over measures 8 and 9.

Violin II (System 2): Continues the rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes, marked *p*.

Viola (System 2): Continues the rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes, marked *p*.

Cello (System 2): Continues the rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes, marked *p* and *pizz.*

B

Musical score for measures 10-18, section B. The score is for four staves: Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., and Vc. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The Vln. I part features a melodic line with a triplet of eighth notes in measure 15 and a triplet of eighth notes in measure 18. The Vln. II part plays a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. The Vla. part plays a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. The Vc. part plays a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes.

Musical score for measures 19-26, section C. The score is for four staves: Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., and Vc. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The Vln. I part features a melodic line with a triplet of eighth notes in measure 19 and a triplet of eighth notes in measure 20. The Vln. II part plays a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. The Vla. part plays a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. The Vc. part plays a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. The dynamic marking *mp* is present in measures 20, 21, and 22. The instruction *arco* is present in measure 21.

D

25

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

31

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

f

mp

p

mf

mp

mp

E

Musical score for measures 1-6, marked **E**. The score is for four staves: Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., and Vc. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 2/4. Vln. I starts with a *mf* dynamic and features a triplet in measure 6. Vln. II, Vla., and Vc. all start with a *p* dynamic. Vc. is marked *pizz.* (pizzicato).

Musical score for measures 7-12, marked **F**. The score is for four staves: Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., and Vc. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 2/4. Measure 7 is numbered 44. Vln. I has a rest in measure 7 and begins in measure 8. Vln. II, Vla., and Vc. continue with their patterns from the previous section.

50

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

mf

p

3

1.

2.

mf

mf

arco

mf

Detailed description: This system contains measures 50 through 53. Measure 50 starts with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). Vln. I and II play a melodic line with a dynamic of *mf*. Vln. II has a triplet of eighth notes in measure 51. Vla. plays a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes. Vc. plays a bass line. Measures 52 and 53 show a first ending (1.) and a second ending (2.). Dynamics for Vln. II, Vla., and Vc. are *p*, *mf*, and *mf* respectively. A 'arco' instruction is present for Vc. in measure 53.

G

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

mp

f

mp

f

mp

f

Detailed description: This system contains measures 54 through 57, marked with a 'G' in a box. Vln. I plays a melodic line with a dynamic of *mp* in measure 54, which changes to *f* in measure 55. Vln. II plays a rhythmic accompaniment with a dynamic of *mp* in measure 54, changing to *f* in measure 55. Vla. plays a melodic line with a dynamic of *mp* in measure 54, changing to *f* in measure 55. Vc. plays a bass line with a dynamic of *mp* in measure 54, changing to *f* in measure 55. Measures 56 and 57 continue the melodic lines for Vln. I and Vla., and the rhythmic accompaniment for Vln. II and Vc.

H

Vln. I *mf* pizz. ³

Vln. II *p* pizz. *mf* ³

Vla. *p* pizz.

Vc. *p*

69 **I**

Vln. I *mf*

Vln. II *p*

Vla. arco *mf* arco *p* pizz.

Vc. *mf* *p*

76 **J**

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

mf

mf

mf

3

83

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

1.

2.

3

3

pizz.

pizz.

f arco

f arco

f arco

f

IV. Summer Stroll

Brightly $\text{♩} = 92$

Musical score for Violin I, Violin II, Viola, and Cello. The score is in 6/8 time and G major. The tempo is marked "Brightly" with a quarter note equal to 92 beats per minute. The dynamics are marked *mf*. The Violin I and Violin II parts feature melodic lines with slurs and accents. The Viola and Cello parts provide harmonic support with sustained notes and rhythmic patterns.

Musical score for Violin I, Violin II, Viola, and Cello, starting at measure 8. A box labeled "A" is placed above the first measure of this section. The score continues with melodic and harmonic development for all instruments, including slurs and accents in the violin parts.

15

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

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

22

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

B

mf *mf* *mf* *mf* *pizz.* *p* *pizz.* *p* *pizz.* *p*

30 C

Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.

mp *mf*
arco *mp* *mf*
arco *mp* *mf*
mp *mf*

38 D

Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.

f *f* *f* *f*

47

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

1.

mp

E

2.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

mp

f

ff