

a fuego lento
(embers)

for 2 Violins
Viola
and Violoncello

by
Bernardo Feldman

SCORE

a fuego lento (embers)

Program Notes

...hurried city wrapped inside its scorching noises, dodging swiftly between something that is almost music, almost wreckage, nearly foul fragrances above the still moist pavement from a rain that didn't last long, yet it cleared the sky enough to let us see through heaven...

...children playing make-believe games in the cardboard box that is just about to turn into a haunted mansion—once the fight is over as to who will be the ghost and who the headless monster—mud pie will be served, accompanied with fresh tea made of eucalyptus tree leaves, all baked inside a funky plastic oven that reminds me of a sentimental story...

...and then, a tender pause, when I glance into your eyes and—for a moment—all that is revealed to me with such intensity finds no name that can be uttered...

...sensuous shapes in visions that will burn your soul without blistering your skin—blazing slowly, aimlessly and placid inside the electric fireplace—as its embers glow in salmon-colored blushes and I spin within the recollections of a gentle day merely gone-bye...

...ráfagas urbanas, deslizandose entre un algo que se asoma sin decirte si es escombros o si es música; entre olores, casi hediondos, sobre el pavimento aún mojado por la breve lluvia que recién cayó para lavar los cielos, nomás para dejarnos ver un poco del paraíso...

...niños que juegan en la gran caja de cartón que se convierte en mil castillos encantados, al tiempo que en una discusión acalorada intentan decidir quien será monstruo y quien fantasma sin cabeza. Pastel hecho de lodo será pronto servido, acompañado claro, con tesito de hojas de eucalipto, cocinado todo en el horno plástico y roído que me recuerda de una historia más bien triste...

... y luego, la pausa y su ternura, cuando miro hacia tus ojos y—por un muy breve momento—algo ahí dentro me es revelado, tan ávido e intenso mas sin nombre claro que lo exprese y lo comparta en alguna lengua conocida...

...formas plácidas y sueños melancólicos que se prenden en el alma sin quemar la piel—lentamente y sin destino—mas allá del fuego eléctrico que brilla entre sus danzas que me llevan prisionero a través de los recuerdos de éste día que insiste en terminar...

Bernardo Feldman, April -October 1996

abril -octubre 1996

Score

Performance Time: ca 12-14 minutes

a fuego lento (embers)

for 2 Violins, Viola and Violoncello

Bernardo Feldman

♩ ca 60 Introspectively (*quasi non vibrato* until measure 28)

con sordina

1

VIOLIN I
sul pont. con sord. *pp* *p* ord. *poco cresc.* *dolcissimo*

VIOLIN II
pp *p* *mp* sul pont. *p* ord. *p*

VIOLA
con sordina *pp* sul tasto sul pont. *p non cresc.* ord. sul ponte

VIOLONCELLO
ppp *pp* *pp poco cresc.*

5

pp ord. sul ponte *p*

pp poco cresc.

pp ord. *p*

9

p non cresc. (take mute off)

cresc. tr. *mp* (take mute off)

p (take mute off)

(take mute off) senza sord. *mp*

13 senza sord.

senza sord. arco ord. *pp* *p* *crescendo* *mp* *p* *dolcissimo*
 senza sord. *p cresc.* *mp* *p poco cresc.*
 sord. *mp*
 sul tasto --- ord. (non tremolo) *ppp* *p*

17

mf *mp* *p* *mp*
 ord. --- sul pont. --- ord. (no tr)

21

mp poco cresc. *mf* *mp* *p dim. poco a poco*
mp *p dim. poco a poco*

25

pp *pp* *pp* *pp* *cresc.* *molto cresc.* *molto cresc.*

29 ca 104 *Passionately (vibrato normale)*

Musical score for measures 29-32. The score is in 3/4 time and consists of four staves: Violin I, Violin II, Viola, and Cello/Double Bass. Measure 29 features a five-measure rest in the Violin I part. Dynamics include *ff*, *f*, *mf*, *sf*, and *fp*. A five-measure rest is also present in the Violin I part in measure 30. The Viola and Cello/Double Bass parts have a *sul ponte* instruction in measure 31, which ends in measure 32. There are triplets in measures 31 and 32.

Musical score for measures 33-35. The score is in 4/4 time and consists of four staves: Violin I, Violin II, Viola, and Cello/Double Bass. Measure 33 has a *f* dynamic. Measure 34 includes *snap pizz.* and *ff* dynamics. Measure 35 includes *arco* and *f* dynamics. There are triplets in measures 33 and 35.

36 ca 84 *Sweetly*

Musical score for measures 36-39. The score is in 4/4 time and consists of four staves: Violin I, Violin II, Viola, and Cello/Double Bass. Measure 36 has a *mf* dynamic. Measure 37 includes *mf scherzoso* and *mf* dynamics. Measure 38 includes *mp* and *mf* dynamics. Measure 39 includes *mp* and *mf* dynamics. A *V* (vibrato) instruction is present in measure 38.

Musical score for measures 42-45. The score is in 4/4 time and consists of four staves: Violin I, Violin II, Viola, and Cello/Double Bass. Measure 42 has a *f* dynamic. Measure 43 includes *mp leggiero* and *mf dolcissimo (v)* dynamics. Measure 44 includes *mp leggiero* and *fp* dynamics. Measure 45 includes *fp* and *fp* dynamics. There are triplets in measures 44 and 45.

48 *ca* 63 *ritardando* *ca* 72 *Passionately*

mp *p* *ff* *p* *ff*

p (quasi subito) *mp*

53

mf *ff*

57

ff *ff*

61

subito mp *subito mp* *subito mp* *subito mp*

65 (ca 72) Jazzy

Violin I: *f*, *mp*, *f*, *mp*

Violin II: *f*, *mp*, *f*, *mp*

Cello/Double Bass: *f*, *mp*, *f*, *mf*

Instructions: *snap pizz.*, *pizz. ord.*

70

Violin I: *mp*, *f*, *mf*, *ff*, *mf dolce*

Violin II: *f*, *p*, *mf*, *ff*, *mf dolce*

Cello/Double Bass: *mp*, *f*, *mf*, *ff*, *mf*

Instructions: *arco*

75 (ca 60)

Violin I: *mf*, *mp*, *ff subito*, *ff molto dim. ppp*

Violin II: *mp*, *mf*, *ff subito*, *ff molto dim. ppp*

Cello/Double Bass: *mf*, *mp*, *ff subito*, *mp*

Instructions: *arco ord.*

78 As if from afar

Violin I: *ppp sul pont.*, *pp molto crescendo*, *arco ord.*

Violin II: *ppp sul pont.*, *pp molto crescendo*, *arco ord.*

Cello/Double Bass: *ppp sul pont.*, *pp molto crescendo*, *arco ord.*, *p cantabile*

Instructions: *sul pont.*, *arco ord.*

1st violin 84 & 85: Increasingly apply extra bow pressure against the strings so that the actual pitches are obliterated by a raspy noise

83

sul tasto
mp
f
mp
f
mp
f
mp

88

94

ca 82

mf dolcissimo
mp
p
mf dolcissimo
mp
mf
p
p

99

ritardando

ca 72 (come prima volta)

pp
ff
f
mf
ff
dim.

105

Musical score for measures 105-110. The score is in 4/8 time and consists of three staves: Treble, Bass, and a lower Treble staff. Measure 105 starts with a treble clef and a 7/8 time signature. Dynamics include *mf*, *cresc.*, and *ff*. There are triplets of eighth notes in measures 106, 107, and 108. Measure 110 ends with a double bar line.

111

Musical score for measures 111-115. The score continues from the previous system. Dynamics include *fff* and *ff*. There are triplets of eighth notes in measures 111, 112, and 113. The piece concludes with *molto diminuendo* markings in measures 114 and 115.

116

Musical score for measures 116-121. The score is in 4/8 time. Measures 116-121 feature a *mp molto crescendo* dynamic. The tempo/style changes to *Jazzy* in measure 117. The lower Treble staff has a *f leggiero* dynamic. The piece ends with *pizz.* (pizzicato) markings in measures 118 and 119.

122

Musical score for measures 122-127. The score is in 4/8 time. The upper Treble staff is marked *arco* and *fp*. The lower Treble staff has a *mf* dynamic. The piece concludes with *mp* and *mf* dynamics in measures 126 and 127. There are triplets of eighth notes in measure 123.

127

Musical score for measures 127-132. The system consists of three staves: two treble clefs and one bass clef. The music is in 3/4 time. Measure 127 starts with a treble clef staff containing a half note chord (F#4, A4) and a bass clef staff with a half note (F#2). Measure 128 has a treble clef staff with a half note chord (F#4, A4) and a bass clef staff with a half note (F#2). Measure 129 has a treble clef staff with a half note chord (F#4, A4) and a bass clef staff with a half note (F#2). Measure 130 has a treble clef staff with a half note chord (F#4, A4) and a bass clef staff with a half note (F#2). Measure 131 has a treble clef staff with a half note chord (F#4, A4) and a bass clef staff with a half note (F#2). Measure 132 has a treble clef staff with a half note chord (F#4, A4) and a bass clef staff with a half note (F#2). Dynamics include *mp*, *mf*, and *cresc.*. There are also accents and a triplet of eighth notes in the bass clef staff in measure 132.

133

Musical score for measures 133-137. The system consists of three staves: two treble clefs and one bass clef. The music is in 3/4 time. Measure 133 has a treble clef staff with a half note chord (F#4, A4) and a bass clef staff with a half note (F#2). Measure 134 has a treble clef staff with a half note chord (F#4, A4) and a bass clef staff with a half note (F#2). Measure 135 has a treble clef staff with a half note chord (F#4, A4) and a bass clef staff with a half note (F#2). Measure 136 has a treble clef staff with a half note chord (F#4, A4) and a bass clef staff with a half note (F#2). Measure 137 has a treble clef staff with a half note chord (F#4, A4) and a bass clef staff with a half note (F#2). Dynamics include *ff*, *f*, *pizz.*, *arco*, and *mp*. There are also accents and a triplet of eighth notes in the bass clef staff in measure 137.

138

Musical score for measures 138-142. The system consists of three staves: two treble clefs and one bass clef. The music is in 3/4 time. Measure 138 has a treble clef staff with a half note chord (F#4, A4) and a bass clef staff with a half note (F#2). Measure 139 has a treble clef staff with a half note chord (F#4, A4) and a bass clef staff with a half note (F#2). Measure 140 has a treble clef staff with a half note chord (F#4, A4) and a bass clef staff with a half note (F#2). Measure 141 has a treble clef staff with a half note chord (F#4, A4) and a bass clef staff with a half note (F#2). Measure 142 has a treble clef staff with a half note chord (F#4, A4) and a bass clef staff with a half note (F#2). Dynamics include *mp*, *arco*, *pizz.*, *mf leggiero*, and *mp*. There are also accents and a triplet of eighth notes in the bass clef staff in measure 142.

143

Musical score for measures 143-147. The system consists of three staves: two treble clefs and one bass clef. The music is in 3/4 time. Measure 143 has a treble clef staff with a half note chord (F#4, A4) and a bass clef staff with a half note (F#2). Measure 144 has a treble clef staff with a half note chord (F#4, A4) and a bass clef staff with a half note (F#2). Measure 145 has a treble clef staff with a half note chord (F#4, A4) and a bass clef staff with a half note (F#2). Measure 146 has a treble clef staff with a half note chord (F#4, A4) and a bass clef staff with a half note (F#2). Measure 147 has a treble clef staff with a half note chord (F#4, A4) and a bass clef staff with a half note (F#2). Dynamics include *mf*, *pizz.*, *mp cresc.*, *arco ord. --- sul pont.*, *ord. -- sul pont.*, *(ord.)*, and *cresc.*. There are also accents and a triplet of eighth notes in the bass clef staff in measure 147.

149

mp *pizz.* *ff* *fp* *dim.* *arco*

154

arco *mp* *arco* *mp* *molto diminuendo* *molto diminuendo* *(place mute)* *diminuendo* *f* *(place mute)*

ca 60 (arco ord., vibrato ord.)

157

(place mute) *con sord.* *pp* *pp* *(place mute)* *con sord.* *p* *mp* *con sord* *pp* *con sordina* *fp* *pp*

161

p *mp* *poco cresc.* *p* *p* *dolcissimo* *p* *pp poco cresc.*

164

pp
pp poco cresc.
p non cresc.
cresc.
tr.
p
pp

168

mp
ppp
pp
fp
ppp

173

poco cresc.
mp
p
pp
p poco cresc.
p
p
p
(non tremolo)
p

176

pp
(no tr)
p poco cresc.
pp
pp
p
mp
p
mp

180

(take mute off)

senza sordina

mp

p

(take mute off) senza sordina

p

ca 104 In despair

184

fff senza sordina

mf

pp

senza sordina

fff

mp molto crescendo

(take mute off)

fff senza sordina

pp

fff

188

mf

f molto diminuendo

f cresc.

mp

189

sf

f

p

f

p

f

mf

f

ff

mf

191

mp f mf f dim.

ca 84 Sweet and playful

193

mf mf f f

196

mp leggiero mf fp mf dolcissimo mp leggiero fp mf

ca 63

ritardando

ca 52 Tenderly

203

mp p mp P p molto espressivo P molto espressivo pp molto espressivo

208

mf *(non crescendo)* *(non crescendo)* *pochissimo crescendo*

212

poco f *mp* *poco f* *doloroso* *mp* *f crescendo* *ff* *mf* *crescendo*

216

mf *f* *poco a poco diminuendo* *poco a poco diminuendo* *poco a poco diminuendo*

219

mf *f* *mf* *poco piu f* *mp*

222

poco diminuendo

poco diminuendo

poco diminuendo

225

mf

mp

fp poco crescendo

mp

poco crescendo

p

fp

229

mf

f

mp

mf

mp

mp

f

accellerando poco a poco

233

poco a poco crescendo

poco a poco crescendo

poco a poco crescendo

poco a poco crescendo

236 ca 72 Passionately

Musical score for measures 236-240. The score is in 2/4 time and consists of four staves: Treble 1, Treble 2, Bass 1, and Bass 2. Measure 236 starts with a forte (*ff*) dynamic and a breath mark (*v*). Measure 237 features a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. Measure 238 has a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic and a breath mark (*v*). Measure 239 has a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic and a breath mark (*v*). Measure 240 has a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic and a breath mark (*v*). The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Musical score for measures 240-244. The score is in 2/4 time and consists of four staves: Treble 1, Treble 2, Bass 1, and Bass 2. Measure 240 starts with a forte (*ff*) dynamic and a breath mark (*v*). Measure 241 features a forte (*ff*) dynamic and a breath mark (*v*). Measure 242 has a forte (*ff*) dynamic and a breath mark (*v*). Measure 243 has a forte (*ff*) dynamic and a breath mark (*v*). Measure 244 has a forte (*ff*) dynamic and a breath mark (*v*). The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Musical score for measures 244-249. The score is in 4/4 time and consists of four staves: Treble 1, Treble 2, Bass 1, and Bass 2. Measure 244 starts with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic and a breath mark (*v*). Measure 245 features a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic and a breath mark (*v*). Measure 246 has a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic and a breath mark (*v*). Measure 247 has a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic and a breath mark (*v*). Measure 248 has a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic and a breath mark (*v*). Measure 249 has a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic and a breath mark (*v*). The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Musical score for measures 249-254. The score is in 3/4 time and consists of four staves: Treble 1, Treble 2, Bass 1, and Bass 2. Measure 249 starts with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic and a breath mark (*v*). Measure 250 features a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic and a breath mark (*v*). Measure 251 has a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic and a breath mark (*v*). Measure 252 has a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic and a breath mark (*v*). Measure 253 has a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic and a breath mark (*v*). Measure 254 has a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic and a breath mark (*v*). The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Musical score for measures 255-263. The score is in 2/4 time and features four staves. The first staff has a melodic line with a *mp* dynamic. The second staff has a complex rhythmic pattern with triplets and a *ff subito* dynamic. The third staff has a bass line with a *mp* dynamic. The fourth staff has a bass line with a *ff subito* dynamic. The piece concludes with a *ff* dynamic, a *molto ppp* dynamic marking, and a fermata.

Musical score for measures 258-263. The score is in 2/4 time and features four staves. The first staff is marked *ppp sul ponte*. The second staff is marked *ppp sul ponte*. The third staff is marked *sul ponte*. The fourth staff is marked *sul ponte ppp*. The piece concludes with a *p cantabile* dynamic marking and the instruction *arco ord.*

(1st violin 264 & 265: come prima volta)

Musical score for measures 264-273. The score is in 3/4 time and features four staves. The first staff is marked *mp sul tasto*. The second staff is marked *f sul tasto*. The third staff is marked *f sul tasto*. The fourth staff is marked *f sul tasto*. The piece concludes with a *mp* dynamic marking.

Musical score for measures 269-273. The score is in 3/4 time and features four staves. The first staff is marked *mf dolcissimo*. The second staff is marked *mf dolcissimo*. The third staff is marked *mf dolcissimo*. The fourth staff is marked *mf dolcissimo*. The piece concludes with a *mf dolcissimo* dynamic marking and a fermata.

275 *ca 82* *molto ritardando*

mp *p* *ppp*

mf dolcissimo *mp mf* *p*

p

a fuego lento
(embers)

fue escrito para el
was written for the

Cuarteto Latinoamericano

y está dedicado a mi esposa
and it is dedicated to my wife

Judy Goldwater-Feldman

Bernardo Feldman, 1996