Steven Snowden

Shoshoni Peak

String Orchestra and Harp
2009

Shoshoni Peak
for Strings and Harp

Commissioned by Eric Johnson and the
Summit High School Orchestra. Frisco, Colorado.

-Program Notes-

In June of 2007, some friends of mine invited me to join them in a trek to the summit of Shoshoni Peak in the Indian Peaks Wilderness. Though I had lived in Colorado for nearly two years at that time, I had yet to attempt what locals would deem a legitimate climb. At nearly 13,000 feet, Shoshoni Peak is a formidable mountain for an inexperienced climber, but I decided that I should take advantage of the opportunity. Mist still shrouded most of Shoshoni when we arrived at Lake Isabelle, though its jagged peak had begun to gleam in the early morning sun. We spent the next four hours traversing vast snow fields that still covered much of the trail that early in the season. Most of the final 500 feet of vertical ascent consisted of loose boulders spotted with splashes of bright green lichen. I still don't know how I survived the last part of the climb, but when I finally arrived at the summit, I knew it was worth the pain of pushing my body farther than it wanted to go. Perhaps it was the somewhat hallucinogenic effect of the altitude, but looking across the continental divide from that unique perspective was a truly overwhelming experience.

-Performance Notes-

All glissandos are to be executed as a smooth and even slide in pitch equal to the duration of the first note to which they are attached.

The grace notes that constitute the rolled open strings in the violins are to be placed before the beat so that the "arrival" pitch is played on the downbeat.

The aleatoric section that begins at measure 15 is intended to create a "hazy" backdrop for the melodic material of the Cellos and Basses. Each player should repeat his or her boxed phrase at a free tempo near that of the conductor. (~52-66 bpm) However, each individual should strive to stay out of phase with the other players without allowing their phrase to be heard above the rest, thereby creating an indistinct wash of sound. The players continue this repetition for the duration of their single line staff and rejoin the tempo of the conductor when they are given a standard five line staff.

Approximate Duration: 6 min.

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Distant
and Blurred ♩= 63

Violin I

Violin II

Viola

Cello

Bass

Harp

D C# B E F# G A

9

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

V.C.

Bass

Hp.

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15

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

V.C.

Bass

Hp.

sul tasto

Like a remote and indistinct haze

*Continuously Repeat Phrase.
The tempo for each individual should be slightly out of phase with the conductor and all other players, creating a homogeneous "wash" of sound.

22

26

tutti

Cellos

près de la table

8vb

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30

Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
V.C.
Bass
Hp.

Vln. II-a
Vln. II-b
ord.
Vla.
mf
n

34 *Coming into focus*

pp

39 40

molto rit.

Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
V.C.
Bass
Hp.

pizz.

fast

C♮

44 Steady and Determined 𝅗𝅥. = 54

Soli
arco

52

56

tutti

Soaring

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

V.C.

Bass

Hp.

f

58

tutti

Delicate

pp *ff* *pp*

Delicate

pp *ff* *pp*

Vln. II

pp *mf* *pp*

64

68

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

V.C.

Bass

Hp.

f

f Soaring

With hushed intensity

p

ord.

f

f

70

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

V.C.

Bass

Hp.

With hushed intensity

p

With hushed intensity

p

p

76

80

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

V.C.

Bass

Hp.

Vln. I

82

84

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

V.C.

Bass

Hp.

88

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

V.C.

Cantabile

Bass

Hp.

93

Vln. I

Vln. II

Cantabile

Vla.

V.C.

Bass

Hp.

99

102

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

V.C.

Bass

Hp.

With hushed intensity

Cantabile

pizz.

104

109

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

V.C.

Bass

Hp.

mf

mp

f

114

arco

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119

122

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

V.C.

Bass

Hp.

124

With swelling momentum

With swelling momentum

With swelling momentum

With swelling momentum

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

V.C.

Bass

Hp.

mp

p

mp

mp

p

mp

mp

mp

mp

mp

f

mp

130

131 *With fervor*

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

V.C.

Bass

Hp.

Soli

135

Vln. I

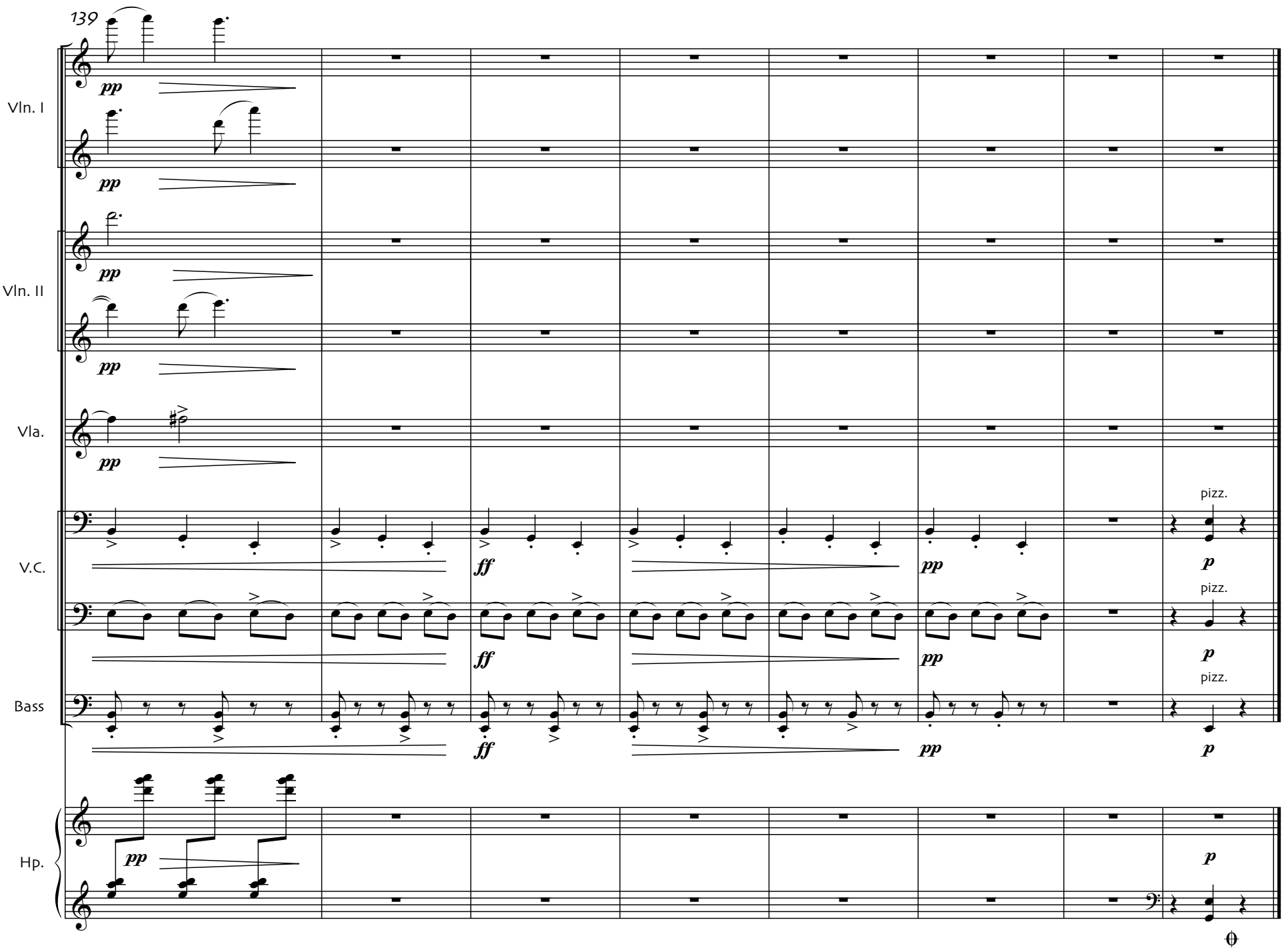
Vln. II

Vla.

V.C.

Bass

Hp.


139
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
V.C.
Bass
Hp.
pp
ff
p
pizz.