



**Alvin SINGLETON**

**Somehow We Can**  
for String Quartet

**European American Music Corporation**  
Miami, Florida

# SOMEHOW WE CAN

was first performed  
27 February 1995  
Alice Tully Hall  
New York City

## The Anderson Quartet

Marianne Henry, Violin 1  
Marisa McLeod, Violin 2  
Diedra Lawrence, Viola  
Michael Cameron, 'Cello

Duration: ca. 16 minutes

For the Anderson Quartet

Commissioned by the Eastman School of Music  
in memory of Marian Anderson — a great artist,  
a courageous lady, and honorary alumna

# Somehow We Can

Alvin Singleton (1994)

♩ = 126

*tutta la forza*

**5**

Violin 1  
*ff*

Violin 2  
*ff*

Viola  
*ff*

Cello  
*ff*

**10**

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Via.

Vcl.

Meno mosso  
 1. 2. ♩ = 63

15

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

14

attack gently

pp espr.

attack gently

pp espr.

attack gently

pp espr.

20

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

19

pp espr.

25

Più mosso  
 ♩ = 126

30

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

26

tutta la forza

ff

tutta la forza

ff

tutta la forza

ff

tutta la forza

ff

35

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

32

40

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

38

Meno mosso

45

50

63

attack gently

*pp espr.*

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

44

*pp espr.*

*pp espr.*

*pp espr.*

Più mosso

$\text{♩} = 126$

55

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

51

*pp*

60

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

56

65

70

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

65

*pp* *staccatissimo, evenly* *tenuto, non espr.*

*pp* *tenuto, non espr.*

*attack gently*

75

Vln. 1 *(non espr.)*

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

72

80

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

78

85

Vln. 1 *pp staccatissimo, evenly*

Vln. 2 *pp staccatissimo, evenly*

Vla. *attack gently*  
*pp tenuto, non espr.*

Vcl. *attack gently*  
*pp tenuto, non espr.*

83

90

Vln. 1 *tenuto, non espr.* (*pp*)

Vln. 2 *tenuto, non espr.* (*pp*)

Vla.

Vcl.

95 100

Vln. 1 (*non espr.*)

Vln. 2 (*non espr.*)

Vla. (*non espr.*)

Vcl. (*non espr.*)

105

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

110

Musical score for measures 107-110. The score is for four staves: Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Viola (Vla.), and Violoncello (Vcl.). The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The music begins at measure 107. The first three measures (107-109) are mostly rests for the strings. At measure 110, all instruments enter with a powerful, sustained chord. The dynamic marking is *ff* (fortissimo) and the instruction is *sempre tutta la forza* (always with full force). The Viola part has a *(pp) molto espr.* marking in the preceding measures.

115

Musical score for measures 114-115. The score is for four staves: Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Viola (Vla.), and Violoncello (Vcl.). The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The music consists of a rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes across all staves. The dynamic marking is *ff* (fortissimo) and the instruction is *sempre tutta la forza* (always with full force).

114

120

125

Musical score for measures 120-125. The score is for four staves: Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Viola (Vla.), and Violoncello (Vcl.). The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The music consists of a rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes across all staves. The dynamic marking is *ff* (fortissimo) and the instruction is *sempre tutta la forza* (always with full force).

120

130

Musical score for measures 126-130, featuring four staves: Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Viola (Vla.), and Violoncello (Vcl.). The score is written in treble clef for the violins and bass clef for the viola and cello. It includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings.

126

135

Musical score for measures 132-135, featuring four staves: Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Viola (Vla.), and Violoncello (Vcl.). The score is written in treble clef for the violins and bass clef for the viola and cello. It includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings.

132

140

Musical score for measures 138-140, featuring four staves: Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Viola (Vla.), and Violoncello (Vcl.). The score is written in treble clef for the violins and bass clef for the viola and cello. It includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings.

138

145

attack gently

150

Vln. 1 *ppp non espr.*

Vln. 2 *ppp non espr.*

Vla. *ppp non espr.*

Vcl. *ppp non espr.*

144

155

Vln. 1 *pizz., arco (sempre) \**  
(IV, III)

Vln. 2 *pizz., arco (sempre) \**  
(IV, III)

Vla. *pizz., arco (sempre) \**  
(III, II)

Vcl. *pizz., arco (sempre) \**  
(I, II)

151

160

Vln. 1 *tenuto, non espr.*

Vln. 2 *tenuto, non espr.*

Vla. *tenuto, non espr.*

Vcl. *tenuto, non espr.*

158

\* Always play grace notes pizzicato, followed by arco

165 170

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

165

175

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

171

180

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

177 *fff*

*arco tallone*

*fff*

*arco tallone*

*fff*

*arco tallone*

*fff*

181

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

185

190

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

*pizz., arco (sempre)*

*ppp non espr.*

*ppp non espr.*

*ppp non espr.*

*pizz., arco (sempre)*

*pizz., arco (sempre)*

*ppp non espr.*

195

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

*a punta d'arco*

*(ppp)*

*a punta d'arco*

*(ppp)*

*a punta d'arco*

*(ppp)*

*a punta d'arco*

*(ppp)*

200

*arco tallone*

Vln. 1 *fff* 5 5 5 5 5 6 6

Vln. 2 *arco tallone* 5 5 5 5 5 6 6 *fff*

Vla. *arco tallone* 5 5 5 5 5 6 6 *fff*

Vcl. *arco tallone* 5 5 5 5 5 6 6 *fff*

198

205

Vln. 1 6

Vln. 2 *tr* *subito ppp*

Vla. 6 *tr* *attack imperceptibly* (b•) *ppp*

Vcl. 6

202

210

*tr* *attack imperceptibly*

Vln. 1 (b•) *ppp*

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl. *tr* *attack imperceptibly* (b•) *ppp*

215

209

220

Vln. 1  
 Vln. 2  
 Vla.  
 Vcl.

(*ppp*) cresc. . . . . poco a poco

216

225

230

Vln. 1  
 Vln. 2  
 Vla.  
 Vcl.

(*pp*) (*p*) (*mp*) (*mf*)

223 (*pp*) (*p*) (*mp*) (*mf*)

235

Vln. 1  
 Vln. 2  
 Vla.  
 Vcl.

(*f*) (*ff*) *fff* *tallone* (*b*) *p* molto espr.

(*f*) (*ff*) *fff* *tallone* (*b*) *p*

(*f*) (*ff*) *fff* *tallone* (*b*) *p*

231 (*f*) (*ff*) *fff* *tallone* (*b*) *p*

240 245

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

239

Meno mosso, spiritual  
♩ = 63

250

Vln. 1  
*p molto espr.*

Vln. 2  
*p molto espr.*

Vla.  
*p molto espr.*

Vcl.  
*p molto espr.*

246

255

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

252

260

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

258

265

Più mosso

♩ = 126

tutta la forza

270

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

265

*ff*

tutta la forza

*ff*

tutta la forza

*ff*

tutta la forza

*ff*

tutta la forza

*ff*

tutta la forza

275

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

272

280 285

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

278

*pp*

*pp*

*pp*

*pp*

290

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

286

295

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

293

*(pp) staccatissimo, evenly*

*(pp) staccatissimo, evenly*

*(pp) staccatissimo, evenly*

*(pp) staccatissimo, evenly*

300

Vln. 1 *p (non cresc.)*

Vln. 2 *p (non cresc.)*

Vla. *p (non cresc.)*

Vcl. *p (non cresc.)*

298

305

Vln. 1 *mp*

Vln. 2 *mp*

Vla. *mp*

Vcl. *mp*

303

310

Vln. 1 *mf*

Vln. 2 *mf*

Vla. *mf*

Vcl. *mf*

308

313

315

Vln. 1 *f* *ff*

Vln. 2 *f* *ff*

Vla. *f* *ff*

Vcl. *f* *ff*

319

320

325

Vln. 1 (*ff*) 6 6

Vln. 2 (*ff*) 6 6

Vla. (*ff*) 6 6

Vcl. (*ff*) 6 6

326

330

Vln. 1 3

Vln. 2 3

Vla. 3

Vcl. 3

Meno mosso

♩ = 63

335 *attack gently*

Musical score for measures 333-335, featuring Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, and Violoncello. The tempo is *Meno mosso* (♩ = 63). The score includes dynamic markings *pp espr.* and *very even*, and performance instructions *attack gently*. Measure numbers 333 and 335 are indicated in boxes.

340

*attack delicately*

345

Musical score for measures 340-345, featuring Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, and Violoncello. The tempo is *Meno mosso* (♩ = 63). The score includes performance instructions *attack delicately* and *(very even)*. Measure numbers 340 and 345 are indicated in boxes.

Più mosso

♩ = 126

*tutta la forza*

350

Musical score for measures 346-350, featuring Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, and Violoncello. The tempo is *Più mosso* (♩ = 126). The score includes dynamic markings *fff* and performance instructions *tutta la forza*. Measure numbers 346 and 350 are indicated in boxes.

355  
\*

Vln. 1  
\* (*fff*) *molto espr.*

Vln. 2  
\* (*fff*) *molto espr.*

Vla.  
(*fff*) *molto espr.*

Vcl.  
\* (*fff*) *molto espr.*

353

360 365

Vln. 1  
*meditative silence*

Vln. 2  
*meditative silence*

Vla.  
*meditative silence*

Vcl.  
*meditative silence*

360

\* At 355 suddenly stop tremolo; continue intensity *molto espressivo* — stagger bow changes

# The Music of Alvin Singleton

<b>After Fallen Crumbs</b>	Orchestra
<b>Again</b>	Chamber Orchestra
<b>Akwaaba</b>	Chamber Ensemble
<b>Alleluia</b>	Female Chorus
<b>Apple</b>	Clarinet Quartet
<b>Argoru I</b>	Piano Solo
<b>Argoru II</b>	'Cello Solo
<b>Argoru III</b>	Flute Solo
<b>Argoru IV</b>	Viola Solo
<b>Argoru Va</b>	Bass Clarinet Solo
<b>Argoru Vb</b>	Alto Flute Solo
<b>Argoru VI</b>	Marimba Solo
<b>Be Natural</b>	Three Bowed Instruments
<b>Bernsteinlied</b>	Voice & Chamber Ensemble
<b>Between Sisters</b>	Voice & Chamber Ensemble
<b>Blueskonzert</b>	Piano & Orchestra
<b>Cara mia Gwen</b>	Orchestra
<b>Changing Faces</b>	Piano Solo
<b>Cinque</b>	Piano Solo
<b>Dream Sequence</b>	Voice & Chamber Orchestra
<b>Durch alles</b>	Orchestra
<b>Ein Kleines Volkslied</b>	Chamber Ensemble
<b>Eine Idee ist ein Stück Stoff</b>	String Orchestra
<b>Epitaph</b>	Chorus
<b>Et Nunc</b>	Chamber Ensemble
<b>Even Tomorrow</b>	Orchestra
<b>Extension of a Dream</b>	Two Percussion
<b>Fallen Crumbs</b>	Male Chorus
<b>Fifty Times Around the Sun</b>	Clarinet & Piano
<b>56 Blows (Quis Custodiet Custodiet?)</b>	Orchestra
<b>Gloria from Messa</b>	Voice, Choir & Chamber Ensemble
<b>Gospel</b>	Chorus
<b>In Our Own House</b>	Chamber Ensemble
<b>Inside-Out</b>	Piano Four Hands
<b>Intezar</b>	String Trio
<b>Kwitana</b>	Chamber Orchestra
<b>La Flora</b>	Chamber Ensemble
<b>Messa</b>	Voice, Choir & Chamber Ensemble
<b>Mutations</b>	Piano Solo
<b>Necessity is a Mother</b>	Voices & Contrabass
<b>PraiseMaker</b>	Chorus & Orchestra
<b>Search</b>	Voice & Chamber Ensemble
<b>A Seasoning</b>	Voice & Chamber Ensemble
<b>Secret Desire to be Black</b>	String Quartet
<b>Shadows</b>	Orchestra
<b>Sinfonia Diaspora</b>	Orchestra
<b>Sing to the Sun</b>	Narrator, Choir & Chamber Ensemble
<b>Somehow We Can</b>	String Quartet
<b>String Quartet No. I</b>	String Quartet
<b>Such a Nice Lady</b>	Chamber Ensemble
<b>Le Tombeau de Petit Prince</b>	Harpichord Solo
<b>Umoja - Each One of Us Counts</b>	Narrator & Orchestra
<b>Woodwind Quintet</b>	Chamber Ensemble
<b>The World is Here with Me</b>	Female Chorus & Piano
<b>A Yellow Rose Petal</b>	Orchestra

Photo: Joanna Eldredge Morrissey

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