

"the present moment"  
for string quartet

(in one movement, 12:00 duration)

**Bruce Babcock**

Commissioned by Artistic Director Daniel Kepl  
for the 2005  
Santa Barbara Chamber Music Festival

copyright Bruce Babcock, B.M.I. 2005



# "the present moment"

for string quartet

Presto ♩ = 100

Musical score for measures 1-4. Large numbers 3 and 4 are placed over the first and second staves respectively. Dynamics include *mf*.

Musical score for measures 5-8. Measure numbers 5, 6, 7, and 8 are indicated at the start of their respective staves.

♩ = ♪ Slightly Slower (3&2)

Musical score for measures 9-12. Large numbers 5, 2, 5, 4 are placed over the first two staves, and 8, 4, 8, 4 are placed over the last two staves. Measure numbers 9, 10, 11, and 12 are indicated at the start of their respective staves.

Much Slower ♩ = 112

Musical score for measures 13-16. Large number 4 is placed over the first and last staves. Measure numbers 13, 14, 15, and 16 are indicated at the start of their respective staves. Performance markings include *Ritard* and *bring out*.

Slower-Moderato ♩ = 80

Musical score for measures 17-20. Large numbers 3 and 4 are placed over the first and last staves. Measure numbers 17, 18, 19, and 20 are indicated at the start of their respective staves. Dynamics include *mp* and *mf*.

21

Musical score for measures 21-24. The score is for four staves: Vn 1, Vn 2, Va, and Vc. Measures 21-22 show rests for Vn 1 and Vn 2, while Va and Vc play. Measures 23-24 show Vn 1 and Vn 2 playing, while Va and Vc continue.

25

Musical score for measures 25-28. The score is for four staves: Vn 1, Vn 2, Va, and Vc. Measures 25-26 show Vn 1 and Vn 2 playing with a *p* dynamic, while Va and Vc play with a *mf* dynamic. Measures 27-28 show Vn 1 and Vn 2 playing with a *p* dynamic, while Va and Vc play with a *p* dynamic.

29

Musical score for measures 29-32. The score is for four staves: Vn 1, Vn 2, Va, and Vc. Measures 29-30 show Vn 1 and Vn 2 playing, while Va and Vc play. Measures 31-32 show Vn 1 and Vn 2 playing, while Va and Vc play.

33

Slightly Faster  
♩ = ♩  
♩ = 92

Musical score for measures 33-36. The score is for four staves: Vn 1, Vn 2, Va, and Vc. Measures 33-34 show Vn 1 and Vn 2 playing with a *mf* dynamic, while Va and Vc play. Measures 35-36 show Vn 1 and Vn 2 playing with a *mf* dynamic, while Va and Vc play. Large numbers 5, 3, 8, 4 are placed over the staves in measures 33-34 and 35-36.

37

Musical score for measures 37-40. The score is for four staves: Vn 1, Vn 2, Va, and Vc. Measures 37-38 show Vn 1 and Vn 2 playing, while Va and Vc play. Measures 39-40 show Vn 1 and Vn 2 playing, while Va and Vc play. Large numbers 5, 3, 8, 4 are placed over the staves in measures 37-38 and 39-40.

L'istesso

41

Vn 1

Vn 2

Va

Vc

42

*mp*

*p*

*mp*

45

Vn 1

Vn 2

Va

Vc

*mf*

*mf*

49

Vn 1

Vn 2

Va

Vc

*mp*

*mp*

*mf*

*p*

53

Vn 1

Vn 2

Va

Vc

*mf*

*pizz.*

*mf*

57

Vn 1

Vn 2

Va

Vc

61

Vn 1  
Vn 2  
Va  
Vc

*p*

Detailed description: This system contains measures 61 through 64. It features four staves: Vn 1, Vn 2, Va, and Vc. A long slur covers the first two measures. Dynamics include *p* at the end of measure 64.

65

Vn 1  
Vn 2  
Va  
Vc

*mf* *f* *mf*  
*mf* *f* *mf*  
*arco* *mf* *f* *mf*  
*mf* *f* *mf*

Detailed description: This system contains measures 65 through 68. It features four staves: Vn 1, Vn 2, Va, and Vc. Dynamics include *mf*, *f*, and *arco*. Large numbers 5, 8, 5, and 8 are written vertically on the right side of the staves.

69 L'istesso

Vn 1  
Vn 2  
Va  
Vc

*mf* *mf* *mf* *mf*

Detailed description: This system contains measures 69 through 72. It features four staves: Vn 1, Vn 2, Va, and Vc. The instruction "L'istesso" is above measure 69. Dynamics include *mf*. Large numbers 5, 3, 8, 4, 5, 3, 8, 4 are written vertically on the right side of the staves.

73 Ritard

Vn 1  
Vn 2  
Va  
Vc

Detailed description: This system contains measures 73 through 76. It features four staves: Vn 1, Vn 2, Va, and Vc. The instruction "Ritard" is above measure 73. Large numbers 3, 5, 4, 8, 3, 4 are written vertically on the right side of the staves.

77 A Tempo (92)

Vn 1  
Vn 2  
Va  
Vc

*p* Solo - freely *mf* *p*

Detailed description: This system contains measures 77 through 80. It features four staves: Vn 1, Vn 2, Va, and Vc. The instruction "A Tempo (92)" is above measure 77. Dynamics include *p*, *mf*, and *Solo - freely*. Large numbers 4, 4 are written vertically on the right side of the staves.

81

Vn 1

Vn 2 *pizz.* *mp*

Va *pizz.* *mp*

Vc *pizz.* *mp*

85

Vn 1

Vn 2

Va

Vc

Meno Mosso ♩ = 80

89

Vn 1

Vn 2 *arco* *mp*

Va *arco* *mp*

Vc *arco* *mp*

93

Vn 1

Vn 2 *mf*

Va *mf*

Vc *mf*

97

Vn 1

Vn 2

Va

Vc

101

Vn 1  
cresc. poco a poco .....

Vn 2  
cresc. poco a poco .....

Va  
cresc. poco a poco .....

Vc  
cresc. poco a poco .....

105

Vn 1  
*f*

Vn 2  
*f*

Va  
*f*

Vc  
*f*

Faster ♩ = 92

109

Vn 1  
*ff*

Vn 2  
*ff*

Va  
*ff*

Vc  
*ff*

Espr. *mp* *p*

113

Vn 1

Vn 2

Va

Vc

117

Vn 1

Vn 2

Va

Vc



121

Vn 1  
Vn 2  
Va  
Vc

Musical score for measures 121-124. The score is for four staves: Vn 1, Vn 2, Va, and Vc. The music consists of eighth and sixteenth notes with various articulations and slurs.

125

Vn 1  
Vn 2  
Va  
Vc

*cresc. poco a poco* . . . . .

Musical score for measures 125-128. The score is for four staves: Vn 1, Vn 2, Va, and Vc. The music features sixteenth-note passages and slurs. A dynamic marking of *cresc. poco a poco* is present. A '6' is written below the Va staff in measures 126 and 127.

129

Vn 1  
Vn 2  
Va  
Vc

**Faster** ♩ = 130 ♩ = 260  
(3 & 2)

Musical score for measures 129-132. The score is for four staves: Vn 1, Vn 2, Va, and Vc. The music is marked **Faster** with a tempo change to ♩ = 130 and ♩ = 260. A '(3 & 2)' marking is present. Large numbers 4, 5, 3, 5 are placed over the Vn staves, and 4, 8, 4, 8 are placed over the Va and Vc staves. Dynamic markings of *f* and *mf* are used.

133

Vn 1  
Vn 2  
Va  
Vc

Musical score for measures 133-136. The score is for four staves: Vn 1, Vn 2, Va, and Vc. Large numbers 5, 3, 5, 3 are placed over the Vn staves, and 8, 4, 8, 4 are placed over the Va and Vc staves. Dynamic markings of *f* and *mf* are used.

137

Vn 1  
Vn 2  
Va  
Vc

(2 & 3)

Musical score for measures 137-140. The score is for four staves: Vn 1, Vn 2, Va, and Vc. Large numbers 5, 3, 5 are placed over the Vn staves, and 8, 4, 8 are placed over the Va and Vc staves. A '(2 & 3)' marking is present. Dynamic markings of *f* and *mf* are used.

141

Vn 1  
Vn 2  
Va  
Vc

145

Vn 1  
Vn 2  
Va  
Vc

149

Vn 1  
Vn 2  
Va  
Vc

153

Vn 1  
Vn 2  
Va  
Vc

157

Vn 1  
Vn 2  
Va  
Vc

Faster

$\text{♩} = 110$  ( $\text{♩} = 330$ )

161

Vn 1  
Vn 2  
Va  
Vc

*pizz.* *f* *arco*

165

Vn 1  
Vn 2  
Va  
Vc

*f*

169

Vn 1  
Vn 2  
Va  
Vc

*mp* *f* *mp*

173

(3&2&2)

Vn 1  
Vn 2  
Va  
Vc

177

Vn 1  
Vn 2  
Va  
Vc

*mp* *f* *mp*

L'istesso (♩ = ♪) ♩ = 165

181

Vn 1 *mp* *f* *pizz.* *mf*

Vn 2 *mp* *f* *pizz.* *mf*

Va *mf* *pizz.* *mf*

Vc *mf* *pizz.* *mf*

185

Vn 1 *p*

Vn 2 *p*

Va *p*

Vc *p*

189

Vn 1 *cresc. poco a poco . . . . .*

Vn 2 *cresc. poco a poco . . . . .*

Va *cresc. poco a poco . . . . .*

Vc *cresc. poco a poco . . . . .*

193

Vn 1 *f* *fff*

Vn 2 *f* *fff*

Va *f* *fff*

Vc *f* *fff*

197

Vn 1 *arco* *mp* *f* *mp*

Vn 2 *arco* *mp* *f* *mp*

Va *f* *arco* *pizz.* *mp* *arco*

Vc *f* *arco* *pizz.* *mp* *arco*

201

Musical score for measures 201-204. The score is for five instruments: Vn 1, Vn 2, Va, and Vc. The time signature changes from 6/8 to 4/8 in measure 202, back to 6/8 in 203, and to 5/8 in 204. The music features eighth and sixteenth notes with accents.

205

(3 & 2) (3&2&2)

Musical score for measures 205-208. The score is for five instruments: Vn 1, Vn 2, Va, and Vc. The time signature changes from 5/8 to 7/8 in measure 206, back to 5/8 in 207, and to 5/8 in 208. The music features eighth notes with accents. Dynamic markings include *sub. p* for Vn 1, Vn 2, and Vc.

209

Musical score for measures 209-212. The score is for five instruments: Vn 1, Vn 2, Va, and Vc. The time signature changes from 5/8 to 7/8 in measure 210, back to 5/8 in 211, and to 7/8 in 212. The music features eighth notes with accents. Dynamic markings include *f* for Vn 1, Vn 2, and Vc.

213

Musical score for measures 213-216. The score is for five instruments: Vn 1, Vn 2, Va, and Vc. The time signature changes from 5/8 to 7/8 in measure 214, back to 5/8 in 215, and to 7/8 in 216. The music features eighth notes with accents.

217

Musical score for measures 217-220. The score is for five instruments: Vn 1, Vn 2, Va, and Vc. The time signature changes from 5/8 to 7/8 in measure 218, back to 5/8 in 219, and to 6/8 in 220. The music features eighth notes with accents. Dynamic markings include *sub. p* for Vn 1, Vn 2, Va, and Vc.

221

Vn 1  
Vn 2  
Va  
Vc

225

Vn 1  
Vn 2  
Va  
Vc

229 (3 & 2)

Vn 1  
Vn 2  
Va  
Vc

233

Vn 1  
Vn 2  
Va  
Vc

237

Vn 1  
Vn 2  
Va  
Vc

241

Vn 1  
Vn 2  
Va  
Vc

Much Slower  
♩ = 120

Vn 1  
Vn 2  
Va  
Vc

*mf* *f* Ritard

Much Slower  
♩ = 92

Vn 1  
Vn 2  
Va  
Vc

*p* *mp*

253

Vn 1  
Vn 2  
Va  
Vc

*Espr.* *p* *mp* *pizz. vibr.* *p*

(bring out) *Espr.*

257

Vn 1  
Vn 2  
Va  
Vc

261

Vn 1  
Vn 2  
Va  
Vc

Musical score for measures 261-264. Vn 1 has a fermata at the end of the first measure. Vn 2 has a triplet in the first measure. Va and Vc have long, sweeping lines across the measures.

265

Vn 1  
Vn 2  
Va  
Vc

(end bring out) *p*  
(bring out) Espr. *p*  
*arco* *p* *mp*

Musical score for measures 265-268. Vn 1 has a fermata at the end of the first measure. Vn 2 has a fermata at the end of the first measure. Va has a fermata at the end of the first measure. Vc has a fermata at the end of the first measure. Dynamics include *p*, *mp*, and *Espr.*

269

Vn 1  
Vn 2  
Va  
Vc

Musical score for measures 269-272. Vn 1 has a fermata at the end of the first measure. Vn 2 has a fermata at the end of the first measure. Va and Vc have long, sweeping lines across the measures.

273

Vn 1  
Vn 2  
Va  
Vc

Musical score for measures 273-276. Vn 1 has a fermata at the end of the first measure. Vn 2 has a fermata at the end of the first measure. Va and Vc have long, sweeping lines across the measures.

277

Vn 1  
Vn 2  
Va  
Vc

(end bring out) *mf* **4** **3**  
*mf* **4**  
*mf* **4**  
*mf*

Musical score for measures 277-280. Vn 1 has a fermata at the end of the first measure. Vn 2 has a fermata at the end of the first measure. Va has a fermata at the end of the first measure. Vc has a fermata at the end of the first measure. Dynamics include *mf*. Large numbers 4 and 3 are placed above the staves, and large numbers 4 and 4 are placed below the staves.



T.P.M.  
Much Slower

$\text{♩} = 80$

281

Vn 1 *poco rit.*

Vn 2 *poco rit.*

Va *bring out poco rit.*

Vc *poco rit.*

*mp*

284

Vn 1 *cresc.*

Vn 2 *cresc.*

Va *cresc.*

Vc *cresc.*

*mf*

289

Vn 1 *f*

Vn 2 *f*

Va *f*

Vc *f*

294

Vn 1

Vn 2

Va

Vc

299

Vn 1 *diminuendo*

Vn 2 *diminuendo*

Va *diminuendo*

Vc *diminuendo*

*mf* *diminuendo*

*mf* *diminuendo*

*mf* *diminuendo*

*mf* *diminuendo*

303

Musical score for measures 303-306. The score is for four staves: Vn 1, Vn 2, Va, and Vc. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The dynamics are *mf* for Vn 1, *mp* for Vn 2 and Va, and *mp* for Vc.

307

Slightly Faster ♩ = 92, ♪ = 184  
(3 & 2)

Musical score for measures 307-310. The score is for four staves: Vn 1, Vn 2, Va, and Vc. The dynamics are *p* for all parts. Large numbers 5 and 8 are written vertically on the right side of the score.

311

Musical score for measures 311-314. The score is for four staves: Vn 1, Vn 2, Va, and Vc. The dynamics are *mf* for Vn 1 and Vc, and *p* for Vn 2 and Va. Large numbers 3 and 4 are written vertically on the right side of the score.

315

Musical score for measures 315-318. The score is for four staves: Vn 1, Vn 2, Va, and Vc. The dynamics are *mf* for Vn 1 and Vc, and *p* for Vn 2 and Va. Large numbers 3, 4, 5, and 8 are written vertically on the left and right sides of the score.

319

Musical score for measures 319-322. The score is for four staves: Vn 1, Vn 2, Va, and Vc. The dynamics are *mf* for Vn 1 and Vc, and *p* for Vn 2 and Va. Large numbers 3, 4, 5, and 8 are written vertically on the left and right sides of the score.

323

Musical score for measures 323-326. The score is for four staves: Vn 1, Vn 2, Va, and Vc. Large numbers 5, 3, 8, 4 are placed over the staves. Dynamics include *mf*, *p*, and *mf*.

327

Musical score for measures 327-330. The score is for four staves: Vn 1, Vn 2, Va, and Vc. Large numbers 3, 5, 4, 8 are placed over the staves. Dynamics include *mf* and *f*.

331

Musical score for measures 331-334. The score is for four staves: Vn 1, Vn 2, Va, and Vc. Large numbers 5, 3, 8, 4 are placed over the staves. Dynamics include *mp* and *f*.

335

Slightly Faster ♩.=100

Musical score for measures 335-338. The score is for four staves: Vn 1, Vn 2, Va, and Vc. Large numbers 9, 8 are placed over the staves. Dynamics include *mp*, *p*, *mf*, and *sul tasto*.

339

Musical score for measures 339-342. The score is for four staves: Vn 1, Vn 2, Va, and Vc. Dynamics include *p* and *mf*.

343

Vn 1 *mf* sul tasto *p*

Vn 2 sul tasto *p* *p*

Va

Vc *mp* nat.

347

Vn 1

Vn 2

Va nat. *mf*

Vc *mf*

351

Vn 1

Vn 2

Va 3

Vc *mf*

355

Vn 1 cresc. poco a poco ..... *mp*

Vn 2 cresc. poco a poco ..... *mp*

Va sul tasto *mp*

Vc 3

359

ord. Faster ♩. = 115

Vn 1 *f* *mf*

Vn 2 *f* *mp*

Va *f* *mp*

Vc *f* *mp*

363

First system of music (measures 363-366). It features four staves: Vn 1 (Violin 1), Vn 2 (Violin 2), Va (Viola), and Vc (Violoncello). Vn 1 has a melodic line with slurs and accents. Vn 2 plays a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes. Va and Vc play a steady eighth-note accompaniment.

367

Second system of music (measures 367-370). The instrumentation remains the same. Vn 1 continues its melodic line, while the other instruments provide accompaniment.

371

Third system of music (measures 371-374). This system includes dynamic markings: *f* (forte) for Vn 1 and *mf* (mezzo-forte) for Vn 2, Va, and Vc. Vn 1 has a more active melodic line with slurs.

375

Fourth system of music (measures 375-378). The instrumentation and dynamics are consistent with the previous system. Vn 1 has a melodic line with slurs and accents.

379

Fifth system of music (measures 379-382). The instrumentation remains the same. Vn 1 has a melodic line with slurs and accents.

383

Vn 1 *cresc. poco a poco* . . . . .

Vn 2 *cresc. poco a poco* . . . . .

Va *cresc. poco a poco* . . . . .

Vc *cresc. poco a poco* . . . . .

387

Vn 1 *f* *cresc.*

Vn 2 *f* *cresc.*

Va *f* *cresc.*

Vc *f* *cresc.*

391

Vn 1 *ff* *mf*

Vn 2 *ff* *f* *mf*

Va *ff* *mf*

Vc *ff* *mf*

395

Vn 1

Vn 2

Va

Vc

399

Vn 1 *f*

Vn 2 *f*

Va *f*

Vc *f*

403

Vn 1  
Vn 2  
Va  
Vc

cresc.  
cresc.  
cresc.  
cresc.

407

Vn 1  
Vn 2  
Va  
Vc

*ff*  
*ff*  
*ff*  
*ff*

*pizz.*  
*mp*

$\text{♩} = \text{Slightly Faster}$

$\text{♩} = 120$

2  
4

413

Vn 1  
Vn 2  
Va  
Vc

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

*f* *mf*  
*f* *mf*  
*f* *mf*

*pizz.*  
*mf*

4  
3  
4

417

Vn 1  
Vn 2  
Va  
Vc

421

Vn 1  
Vn 2  
Va  
Vc

*arco*  
*mf*  
*arco*  
*mf*

425

Vn 1  
Vn 2  
Va  
Vc

cresc.  
cresc.  
cresc.  
cresc.

429

Vn 1  
Vn 2  
Va  
Vc

f  
f  
f  
f

433

Vn 1  
Vn 2  
Va  
Vc

ff  
ff  
ff  
f

Slightly Faster Again

438  $\text{♩} = 132$

Vn 1  
Vn 2  
Va  
Vc

pizz. arco  
mf cresc. poco a poco .....  
pizz. p cresc. poco a poco ..... arco mf  
pizz. arco  
mf mp cresc. poco a poco ..... mf

4 3 4 4

442

Vn 1  
Vn 2  
Va  
Vc

f f f f

3 4 4 4