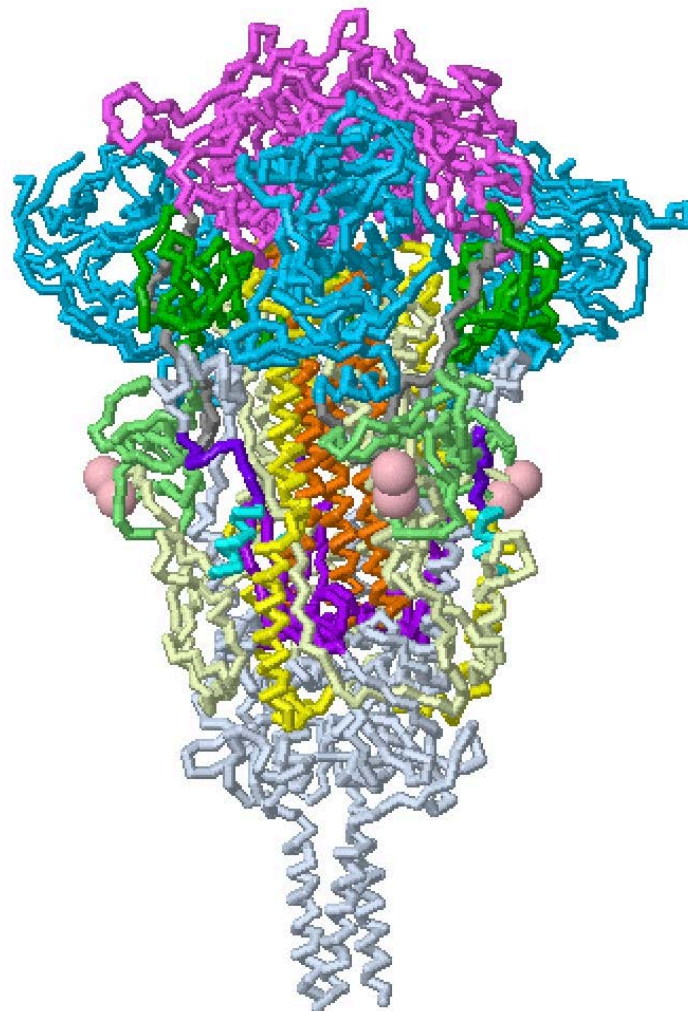


Linda Dusman

Corona Bagatelles

for cello and piano

12'



Program Notes

Corona Bagatelles comprises a musical cryptogram of 1273 amino acids, which chained together create the spike protein of the COVID-19 virus. This protein enables the virus to bind to human cells and replicate itself, creating havoc in the human body.

During the dark days of 2020, I took solace in contemplating the abstraction of this protein, exerting a measure of control unavailable by any other means by "composing" it, imposing rhythms, melody, timbre, and form onto it. Each of the 5 movements is based on a subset of the entire amino acid chain, and its sounding motives suggested various characters or moments in my experience of the COVID quarantine (including an odd sequence where it quoted the opening notes of the *Dies Irae*, the mass for the dead), an experience all humanity now shares.

The final movement "Binding" celebrates the life of composer Wesley Fuller, who passed away as I was composing it. I had in mind one of my favorite compositions of his, *Time into Pieces*, and his joy in living expressed in his music, his poetry, and his love of family and friends. The final act of the coronavirus is to bind to our cells before it replicates itself. Binding to one another in shared purpose is perhaps our only way to survive. I also wanted to express this contradiction to close the set of bagatelles.

I offer my appreciation and thanks to the Duo des Alpes, Corrado Greco and Claude Hauri, for commissioning this piece; to Dr. Phyllis Robinson, who tutored me in biology while I composed it; and to our student Peter Bailer who as a biochemist and composer assisted with the translation into music.

Corona Bagatelles I. Silent City

Linda Dusman

Agitato ma giocoso ♩=138
(♩ = ♪ throughout)

The first system of the score consists of three staves. The top staff is a bass clef with a 4/8 time signature, followed by changes to 5/16, 7/16, 9/16, and 4/8. The middle staff is a treble clef with a 4/8 time signature, marked *mp*. The bottom staff is a bass clef with a 4/8 time signature, marked *light pedal*. The music features a melodic line in the treble and a rhythmic accompaniment in the bass.

increase pressure

The second system begins at measure 5. The top staff is a bass clef with a 4/8 time signature, marked *pp*. It includes a *gliss.* (glissando) and a *f* (forte) dynamic. The middle staff is a treble clef with a 4/8 time signature, marked *mp* and *l.v.* (left hand). The bottom staff is a bass clef with a 4/8 time signature, marked *mp*. A *Ped.* (pedal) marking is present at the bottom of the system.

12

pizz.--tempo ad lib.

The third system begins at measure 12. The top staff is a bass clef with a 9/16 time signature, followed by a change to 4/8. It is marked *f* and includes a *5* (quintuplet) marking. The middle staff is a treble clef with a 9/16 time signature, followed by a change to 4/8. It is marked *mp colla cello; exact time*. The bottom staff is a bass clef with a 9/16 time signature, followed by a change to 4/8. A *Ped.* (pedal) marking is present at the bottom of the system.

* muted piano

2 **A** a tempo *increase pressure* *poco rit.* **B** a tempo

17 *arco* *gliss.* *mp* *f* *mp* 5

increase pressure

23

5 5 5 *gliss.* *mp* *p - secco*

28

bring out RH *mf* 3 *p - secco*

32

gliss. *mf* *mf* *poco rall.* *a tempo* *pp* *pp*

(amino acids 1-120)

II. Quarantine Summer

In a trance (♩=98-100), sempre quasi rubato

The musical score is written for piano and features three systems of music. The key signature is one flat (B-flat major or D minor) and the time signature is 6/8. The tempo is marked 'In a trance (♩=98-100), sempre quasi rubato'.

System 1:

- Bass Clef:** Starts with a whole rest, followed by a half note G2, a quarter note A2, and a quarter note B2.
- Right Hand:** Marked 'Delicato' and 'pp'. Features a continuous sixteenth-note pattern. Dynamics include 'mf' and 'pp'.
- Left Hand:** Marked 'Ped.' and 'mp'. Features a sixteenth-note pattern with two trills marked '15^{ma}' and '3'.

System 2:

- Bass Clef:** Continues the melodic line with notes G2, F2, E2, and D2.
- Right Hand:** Continues the sixteenth-note pattern.
- Left Hand:** Continues the sixteenth-note pattern with trills.

System 3:

- Right Hand:** Marked 'flautando - sul tasto - hazy legato' and 'pp'. Features a melodic line with slurs and ties.
- Left Hand:** Marked 'hazy' and 'pp'. Features a sixteenth-note pattern with trills.
- Bottom Left:** A trill marked '15^{ma}' and '3'.
- Bottom Center:** An asterisk followed by 'Ped.'.

4

pizz.- strum

8

mp

8va

3 3

3

*

12 **A** *a tempo*

arco

pp cantando

Ped.

Ped.

15

gliss.

mf

pp

mf

pp

* *Ped.*

18

Musical score for measures 18-20. The system consists of three staves: a bass staff, a grand staff (treble and bass), and a lower grand staff (treble and bass). The bass staff contains a melodic line with a fermata over the final measure. The grand staff features a complex, rapid sixteenth-note accompaniment in the right hand and a simple bass line in the left hand. The lower grand staff has a long, sustained note in the left hand.

B

21

Musical score for measures 21-24. The system consists of three staves: a bass staff, a grand staff, and a lower grand staff. The bass staff has a melodic line with a fermata. The grand staff features a complex accompaniment with a triplet of eighth notes in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The lower grand staff has a long, sustained note. Performance markings include *pp* (pianissimo) and *Red.* (ritardando). A dynamic marking *mp* (mezzo-piano) appears in the next system.

25

Musical score for measures 25-28. The system consists of three staves: a bass staff, a grand staff, and a lower grand staff. The bass staff has a melodic line with a fermata. The grand staff features a complex accompaniment with a triplet of eighth notes in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The lower grand staff has a long, sustained note. Performance markings include *mp* (mezzo-piano) and a triplet of eighth notes.

6

flautando - sul tasto

27

3

pp *8va*

mf

30

** Ped.*

8va

3

3

3

33

** Ped.*

mf

8va

mf *8va*

p *8va*

pp *8va*

36

** Ped.*

pp

tonlos--completely sul pont

*
(amino acids 120-300)

III. Cape Ann Gulls: Pecking Order

Strident yet playful

♩ = c. 220

Violoncello

Piano

f

f

mp

5

Vc.

Pno.

mp

mp

A

molto leggiero

10

Vc.

Pno.

f

pp

pp

15

Vc.

Pno.

mf

Detailed description: This system contains measures 15 through 19. The Violin (Vc.) part is in the bass clef, starting with a whole rest in measure 15, followed by a melodic line in measures 16-19. The Piano (Pno.) part consists of two staves. The right hand plays chords and moving lines, while the left hand provides harmonic support with chords and moving lines. A dynamic marking of *mf* is present at the end of measure 19.

20

Vc.

Pno.

mf

Detailed description: This system contains measures 20 through 24. The Violin (Vc.) part continues its melodic line, with dynamic markings of *mf* and accents. The Piano (Pno.) part features more complex textures with chords and moving lines in both hands, including some triplets and sixteenth-note patterns. A dynamic marking of *mf* is present at the beginning of measure 20.

25

Vc.

Pno.

mf

sub. f mp

sub. f

Detailed description: This system contains measures 25 through 29. The Violin (Vc.) part features a melodic line with a dynamic marking of *mf* and accents. The Piano (Pno.) part continues with complex textures, including chords and moving lines. Dynamic markings of *sub. f mp* and *sub. f* are present. The system concludes with a *sub. f* marking at the end of measure 29.

B

slightly slower

(♩ = 208)

Vc. *pizz.* *sub. mp* *cresc.*

B

slightly slower

(♩ = 208)

molto legato

Pno. *sub. f* *cresc.*

a tempo

C

♩ = 220

Vc. *arco* *f*

C

a tempo

♩ = 220

Pno. *f* *sub. mp*

40

Vc. *sub. f* *mp*

Pno. *mp* *sub. f* *sub. f* *mp* *f*

45 D

Vc.

Pno.

50

Vc.

Pno.

55

Vc.

Pno.

61

Vc.

Pno.

poco rit. sul A pizz. sfz

poco rit. sfz

8vb

IV. Spring Torpor

Free time, tenderly (♩ = 60 or less)

The first system of the score consists of three staves. The top staff is a single bass clef line with a 4/4 time signature, which changes to 6/4 and then 5/4. It contains a series of quarter notes: G2, A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, F3, G3. Above the staff is a circular bowing symbol with an arrow pointing right, labeled with an asterisk (*). The middle staff is a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) with a 4/4 time signature, changing to 6/4 and then 5/4. It features a melodic line in the treble clef starting with a half note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F5, G5. The bass clef part has a half note G2, followed by quarter notes A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, F3, G3. The dynamic marking *mp* is placed above the treble clef. The bottom staff is a grand staff with a 4/4 time signature, changing to 6/4 and then 5/4. It contains a melodic line in the treble clef starting with a half note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F5, G5. The bass clef part has a half note G2, followed by quarter notes A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, F3, G3. The dynamic marking *sempre pp* is placed above the treble clef, and *molto ped.* is placed below the bass clef.

The second system of the score consists of three staves. The top staff is a single bass clef line with a 3/4 time signature. It contains a series of quarter notes: G2, A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, F3, G3. Above the staff is a circular bowing symbol with an arrow pointing right. The dynamic marking *pizz.* is placed above the staff, followed by a box containing the letter 'A'. The middle staff is a grand staff with a 3/4 time signature. It features a melodic line in the treble clef starting with a half note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F5, G5. The bass clef part has a half note G2, followed by quarter notes A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, F3, G3. The dynamic marking *secco* is placed above the treble clef, and a '6' is written below the treble clef. The bottom staff is a grand staff with a 3/4 time signature. It contains a melodic line in the treble clef starting with a half note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F5, G5. The bass clef part has a half note G2, followed by quarter notes A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, F3, G3. The dynamic marking *non ped.* is placed below the bass clef.

The third system of the score consists of three staves. The top staff is a single bass clef line with a 3/4 time signature, changing to 6/4. It contains a series of quarter notes: G2, A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, F3, G3. Above the staff is a circular bowing symbol with an arrow pointing right. The dynamic marking *arco* is placed above the staff, followed by a circled '8va' and a dashed line pointing to a complex chord of eighth notes. The middle staff is a grand staff with a 3/4 time signature, changing to 6/4. It features a melodic line in the treble clef starting with a half note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F5, G5. The bass clef part has a half note G2, followed by quarter notes A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, F3, G3. The dynamic marking *pp* is placed above the treble clef. The bottom staff is a grand staff with a 3/4 time signature, changing to 6/4. It contains a melodic line in the treble clef starting with a half note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F5, G5. The bass clef part has a half note G2, followed by quarter notes A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, F3, G3. The dynamic marking *ped. ad lib* is placed below the bass clef.

* med. fast circular bow

B Slightly faster; still free

15 *, nor.* (♩ = c.72) *mp*

legato
non ped.

18 (8va) (8va)

ped. ad lib.

23 (8va) *flautando*

flautando

26 (8va) *poco accel.*

poco accel.

29 **C** poco movimento

pizz. *p* *arco*

33 ritardando...

mute *p* *nor.* *mf*

37 **D** tempo primo (♩ = 60)

pizz. *arco* *mf* *p* *mp* *p cresc.* *mf*

8va *8vb*

42 *pizz.* *arco* *f* *pp* *p* *pp*

V. Binding

(variations on A)

Molto espressivo; with triumph

♩ = c. 72

freely

3

6 *a tempo*

A Searching; espressivo and in more strict time

9 $\text{♩} = 90$

mf *mp*

12

mf *mp*

15

f *mf*

18

f *ff* *trb*

f *ff* *trb*

Ped.

B *molto legato* ♩ = c. 60
espressivo--beginning to dance

21

rit. *mp*

rit. *p*

Ped.

23

p *trb*

8va

Ped.

25

Musical score for measures 25-26. The score is in 12/8 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The upper staff (bass clef) features a melodic line with two groups of five eighth notes, each marked with a '5' below it, and a final half note marked with a dynamic of *f*. The lower staff (treble clef) contains two groups of eighth notes, each marked with a '3' below it, and a trill marked with *tr* and a flat. The piano part (grand staff) includes a trill in the right hand marked with *tr* and a flat, and a half note in the left hand. The piano part is marked with a dynamic of *pp* and includes the instruction *ped ad lib.* with a wedge-shaped symbol.

27



more relaxed, freely.

♩. = 40

Musical score for measures 27-28. The score is in 12/8 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The upper staff (treble clef) features a melodic line with a dynamic of *mp*. The lower staff (treble clef) contains a melodic line with a dynamic of *mp* and a trill marked with *tr* and a flat. The piano part (grand staff) includes a melodic line in the right hand with a dynamic of *mp* and a trill in the left hand marked with *tr* and a flat. The piano part is marked with a dynamic of *mp*.

ad lib.- like a wave - sempre legato

28

8va

delicato - shimmering

mp

cresc.

This system contains measures 28 and 29. The top staff is a single melodic line starting with a half note and followed by a series of eighth notes with a *cresc.* marking. The middle staff is a piano accompaniment consisting of a continuous eighth-note arpeggiated pattern, marked *delicato - shimmering* and *mp*. The bottom staff shows bass notes, including a triplet of eighth notes and a half note.

29

f

5

8

This system contains measures 29 and 30. The top staff continues the melodic line from measure 29, marked *f*, and includes a fingering '5' for the final note. The middle staff continues the arpeggiated piano accompaniment, marked '8'. The bottom staff shows bass notes, including a triplet of eighth notes and a half note.

30

molto rit.--free time

mp

8

follow cello

This system contains measures 30 and 31. The top staff is a single melodic line starting with a half note, marked *mp*, and ending with a fermata. The middle staff continues the arpeggiated piano accompaniment, marked '8', and includes the instruction *follow cello*. The bottom staff shows bass notes, including a triplet of eighth notes and a half note.

31

a tempo ma molto rubato

33

D *in time;*
slightly faster, flowing
 (♩. = 50)

35

37 **a tempo** (♩. = c. 80)

Musical score for measures 37-38. The system consists of three staves: a single bass staff at the top and a grand staff (treble and bass) below. The bass staff begins with a glissando (gliss.) and a fortissimo (ff) dynamic. A trill (tr b) is marked above the first measure. The grand staff features complex chordal textures with various articulations (accents, slurs) and dynamics (sfz).

Musical score for measures 39-40. The system consists of three staves: a single bass staff at the top and a grand staff below. The bass staff features glissandos (gliss.) and a trill (tr b). The grand staff continues with complex textures, including a sfz dynamic and various articulations.

Musical score for measures 41-42. The system consists of three staves: a single bass staff at the top and a grand staff below. The bass staff has a trill (tr b) and a change in time signature from 4/4 to 3/4. The grand staff features complex textures with a sfz dynamic and various articulations.

Alluring (♩ = 72)

43 **E** pizz. *pizz.* *p* *delicato* *gliss.* *gliss.* *gliss.*

pp *8va* *ped.* *ped.*

49 *gliss.* *gliss.*

mp *ped.*

53 *sul D* *gliss.* *arco* *sul A--slow gliss freely from high to open string*

8va *ped. ad lib.*

sul D-- faster gliss freely from high to open string

56

Musical score for measures 56-58. The score is written for three staves: a single bass staff at the top, and a grand staff (treble and bass) below. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The time signature changes from 2/4 to 3/4 at measure 57. The piece begins with a fermata over a whole note in the bass staff. A dynamic marking of *mf* is present. A long, sweeping glissando line starts at the beginning of measure 56 and extends across the top of the page. The piano part features a complex rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some chords and slurs.

*sul G--free even faster random gliss
from high to open string*

59

Musical score for measures 59-61. The score is written for three staves: a single bass staff at the top, and a grand staff (treble and bass) below. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The time signature is 2/4. The piece begins with a fermata over a whole note in the bass staff. A dynamic marking of *f* is present. A long, sweeping glissando line starts at the beginning of measure 59 and extends across the top of the page. The piano part features a complex rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some chords and slurs.

sul C--free rapid random gliss from high to open string

61

ff

con forza

ff

*scrunch tone
(near
fingerboard)*

*slow random gliss up--
take time*

65

sul pont.

fff

fff

*in memorium Wesley Fuller
(amino acids 840-1273)
Baltimore, June 2021*