

PIANO

WORDS FAIL ME

BY LOIS V VIERK

FOR CELLO AND PIANO

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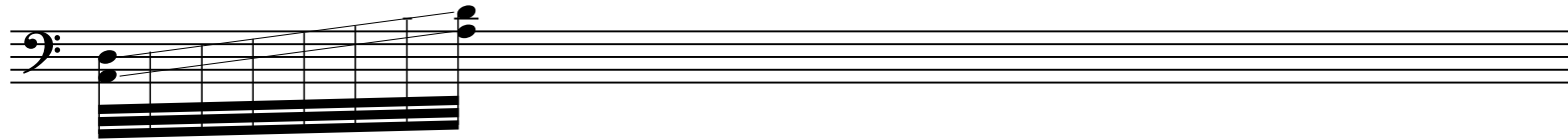
WORDS FAIL ME

Cello

Entire piece is NON VIBRATO, except improvisation in 1st movement where vibrato is ad lib.

All glissandi should be played on one string, not crossing strings.

Use entire note value for each glissando.



Articulate each 32nd note while glissing.

Cello and Piano

Bring out all glissandi. They are not just "ornaments".

Be careful to play all dynamics exactly as written, exactly where written.

For performance questions please contact the composer:

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A high quality stereo sound reinforcement system is required, with both instruments close-miked. The object is clarity of sound (not a high volume level).

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**Words Fail Me
(2005) by Lois V Vierk**

**for cello and piano
2 movements**

I wrote the melody for the first movement of Words Fail Me soon after September 11, 2001. My family and I had watched horrid events of that day “live” out our apartment window, as thousands of people were murdered before our eyes when the World Trade Center was shot down. It happened just across the Hudson River from where we live in NJ. It is an image I will never ever forget, of smoke and dust drenching lower Manhattan in a horrible white cloud of debris that used to be a building vibrant with the energy of many living, breathing people.

After spending weeks in a kind of daze I eventually picked up musical sketches for cello and piano that I had been working on before 9/11. The materials in those sketches seemed so irrelevant that I threw everything away. Then I wrote simple music. There is room for some improvisation. There are many piano phrases in the first movement where one note is held down so that this sound rings through the fast notes, which disappear. The ringing notes signify the memory of the huge buildings that had disappeared before my eyes.

The second movement is made up of dense instrumental textures and is dynamic and rhythmic. It builds relatively simple phrases into more complex statements, which develop into a high energy climax. It's first of all an expression of the horror of the event - the people, the buildings, all destroyed in little more than an instant. Besides that, it's an acknowledgement of reality, making it ultimately possible to move from numbness and debilitating sadness to the possibility of feeling and acting and going on. This piece is meant as a tribute to the victims and to the people of greater New York City, as well as to all people anywhere who survive tragedy and disaster and go on with life with great resolve.

WORDS FAIL ME
I.

PIANO

by Lois V Vierk

♩ = 63

In strict rhythm
NON VIB -- entire piece
with mute

Vcl

Pno

p *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *f* non decrescendo! *mf* *mp*

change bow ad lib (short comma)

gliss approx. to E

6

Vlc

Pno

p *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

sul A sul D -- bring out top line sul A sul D -- bring out top line

11

Vlc

Pno

mf *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *f* non decrescendo! *mf* *mp*

change bow ad lib

gliss approx. to E

[illegible]

19

Vlc

Pno

22

Vlc

mm. 22-25, bring out F - G melody:

Pno

F - G F - F - G F - F - G

25

Vlc

Pno

mp

F - G

4/4 6/4 4/4 6/4 4/4 6/4

28

Vlc

Pno

pp

mp

pp

6/4 4/4 4/4 4/4

32

Ⓑ

Vlc

Pno

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

change bow ad lib

4/4 4/4 4/4 4/4 4/4

37 **C**

Vlc

p

mf

p

mf

mf

sul A

sul D -- bring out top line

cresc till the end

Pno

40

Vlc

mf

p

mf

mf

Pno

43

Vlc

pp

pp

p

mm. 44-47, bring out F - G melody:

F - G F - F - G

Pno

46

Vlc

mf *pp* *pp* *mf* *pp* *mp*

Pno

F - F - G F - G

4/4 6/4 15/32

49

Vlc

pp *mp*

Pno

4/4 6/4 4/4

52

Vlc

Remove mute **D** without mute *mp* *f* embellish the part, ad lib

Pno

4/4

58

Vlc

f

Pno

mf

(E) cello improvisation:
--sad and restrained
length ad lib (vibrato OK for improv)

64

Vlc

6/4

Pno

mp

f

non decrescendo!

mp

sub.
mp

70

Vlc

6/4

Pno

improv--length ad lib

78 **F**

Vlc

Pno

ff non descre!

ff

ff

82

Vlc

Pno

mf sub *p*

p

85

Vlc

Pno

WORDS FAIL ME
II.

Lois V Vierk

4

♩ = 66

Vcl

Pno

right and left hands equal in volume

mf

Pedal ad lib, rhythm clear

f

(do not decrescendo)

4

Vlc

Pno

(do not decrescendo)

Gliss parallel minor 2nds up and down

f

mp

f

8

Vlc

Pno

mp

mp

11

Vlc

Pno

f

f

mp

14

Vlc

Pno

f

f

17

Vlc

Pno

mp

f

f

20

Vlc

Pno

mp

mp

23

Vlc

Pno

f

f

f

26

Vlc

Pno

mp

f

f

mp

f

mf

mp

f

29

Vlc

Pno

ff (do not decrescendo)

mf

mp

descreasc. little by little,
not suddenly

32

Vlc

Pno

mp

make sure glisses overlap rhythmically

35

Vlc

Pno

ff (do not decrescendo)

mp

A

38

Vlc

f *mp* *f*

Pno

f

41

Vlc

Gliss parallel minor 2nds up and down

f *mp* *f*

Pno

mp *f*

44

Vlc

mp *f* *mp*

Pno

mp

47

Vlc

ff

Pno

ff

50

Vlc

sub. *mp*

f

sub. *mp*

Pno

sub. *mp*

f

sub. *mp*

53

Vlc

f

mp

f

Pno

f

sub *mp*

f

56

Vlc

Pno

mp *f*

R.H. plays A, B-flat, B until last note of measure

sub *mp*

59

Vlc

Pno

mp *f* *mf*

sub. *mp*

62

Vlc

Pno

f *mp*

sub. *mp*

64

Vlc

Pno

f

mp

f

mp

67

Vlc

Pno

ff

ff

f

70

Vlc

Pno

f

f

mf

ff

73

Vlc

(bring out all glississ)

ff

(do not decrescendo)

Pno

sub.
mp

f

76

Vlc

f

Pno

sub.
mp

f

79

Vlc

mf

f

Pno

mf

crescendo

82

Vlc

Pno

mp *f* *mp* *f* *mp* *f* *mp*

85

Vlc

Pno

ff *8va* *f*

88

Vlc

Pno

(8va) *f* *f* *ff*

sub. *f*

91

Vlc

(do not decrescendo)

f

ff

crazy

Pno

sub. *mp*

f

sub. *mp*

94

Vlc

f

ff

mf

Pno

f

sub. *mp*

f

97

Vlc

ff

mf

Pno

sub. *mp*

f

99

Vlc

Pno

sub. *mp*

ff

mf

ff

f

sub. *mp*

102

Vlc

Pno

sub. *mp*

f

sub. *mp*

f

crescendo poco a poco

105

Vlc

Pno

sub. *mp*

f

sub. *mf*

ff

sub. *mf*

ff

108

Vlc

Pno

f

mf

ff

111 ^(C)

Vlc

Pno

ff

f

sub.

ff

(do not decrescendo)

sub.
mf

114

Vlc

Pno

f

ff

sub.
mf

ff

117

Vlc

Pno

sub.
mf

ff

sub.
mf

120

Vlc

Pno

f

ff

ff

sub.
mf

ff

123

Vlc

Pno

sub.
mf

ff

sub.
mf

ff

126

Vlc

Pno

sub. *mf* *ff* *mf* *ff*

crescendo poco a poco

128

Vlc

Pno

ff sub. *mf* crescendo poco a poco *ff*

130

Vlc

Pno

(cello dynamics on top of staff:) sub *mf* *ff* sub *mf* *ff* *ff*

132

Vlc

sub mf *ff* *sub. mf* *ff* *sub. mf* *ff* *sub. mf*

(8^{va})

Pno

ff

134

Vlc

ff *sub. mf* *ff* *mf*

(8^{va})

Pno

sub. mf

136

Vlc

ff *mf*

(8^{va})

Pno

138 D

Vlc *ff* (do not decrescendo)

Pno *ff* *mf* *ff*

140

Vlc *mf*

Pno *sub. mf* *ff*

142

Vlc

Pno

sub.
mf

ff

f

Gliss far as possible

ff

sub.
mf

145

Vlc

Pno

f

ff

f

ff

sub.
mf

ff

148

Vlc

Pno

sub.
mf

ff

f

ff

ff

sub.
mf

151

Vlc

Pno

ff

sub.
mf

154

Vlc

Pno

f

ff

ff

ff

ff

157

Vlc

Pno

sub.
mf

ff

sub.
mf

ff

ff

160

Vlc

Pno

sub.
mf

ff

ff

162

Vlc

Pno

sub.
mf

ff

ff

164

Vlc

Pno

sub.
mf

ff

ff

166

Vlc

Pno

sub.
mf

ff

ff

168

Vlc

Pno

sub.
mf

ff

ff

170

Vlc

Pno

sub.
mf

ff

ff

171

Vlc

Pno

ff

sub. *mf*

ff

sempre ff

174

Vlc

Pno

(E)

sub. *mf*

ff

177

Vlc

Pno

sub. *mf*

ff

sub. *mf*

ff

180

Vlc

ff

Pno

ff

sub. *mf* *ff*

183

Vlc

ff

Pno

ff

sub. *mf* *ff*

186

Vlc

Pno

ff

188

Vlc

Pno

sub. *mf*

ff

ff

sub. *mf*

190

Vlc

Pno

sub. *mf*

ff

sub. *mf*

(play top note of lower chord with R.H. if necessary)

192

Vlc

Pno

ff

ff

194

Vlc

Pno

ff

sub.
mf

(play top note of lower chords with R.H. if necessary)

Measures 194-195. Vlc: 3/4, melodic line with accents and crescendo. Pno: 3/4, chords with crescendo. Dynamics: *ff*, sub. *mf*. Note: (play top note of lower chords with R.H. if necessary).

196

Vlc

Pno

Measures 196-197. Vlc: 2/4, 3/4, melodic line with crescendo and accents. Pno: 4/4, 3/4, chords with crescendo.

198

Vlc

Pno

ff

Measures 198-199. Vlc: 4/4, melodic line with crescendo. Pno: 4/4, chords with crescendo. Dynamics: *ff*.

199

Vlc

Pno

fff *ff* *fff* *fff*

sub. *mf* crescendo poco a poco

201

Vlc

Pno

203

Vlc

Pno

8va cluster G# to C *fff*

205 **F**

Vlc

Pno

8^{va} B

cluster, white & black

cluster, white & black

cluster A to D-flat

Play white notes with L.H.,
black notes with R.H.

(R.H.)

A to D-flat

208

Vlc

Pno

A to D-flat

A# to D

211

Vlc

Pno

A# to D

A# to D

213

Vlc

Pno

A# to D
(m. 213, 214, 215)

215

Vlc

Pno

ff

(to 15 ma)

A-B-C-D-E
(all natural)

217

Vlc

Pno

15^{ma}

219

Vlc

Pno

15^{ma}

222

Vlc

Pno

15^{ma}

gliss to lowest A
Ped. *