

# **A Cappella**

*for eight cellos*

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## Performance Notes:

- ◆ Vibrato should be minimal, except where otherwise notated.
- ◆ All ornaments should be played on the beat.
- ◆ Expression and dynamic markings, especially in sections like letter **H**, are suggestions of a possible approach, but are not decrees—alternative interpretations, subtle or extreme, are welcome and invited.

**p** = ponticello (lots of harmonics, very metallic)

**sp** = semi-ponticello (metallic sounding, with harmonics, but not fully ponticello)

**n** = normal bowing position

**t** = tasto (clear, high bow speed, minimal weight)

----- lines connecting these markings indicate a gradual change from one to the other; these changes should be made as extreme as possible.

**x** note heads = “scritch;” at the frog, the bow is thrust directly into the strings, creating a largely un-pitched “scratchy” sound, and then left “stuck” into the strings. It is normally not released until the next notes are played. It is a way of getting the bow into the strings, in preparation for following notes, while adding a kind of percussive accent. Go for a noisy, gritty attack.

**+** = pizzicato, probably with the left-hand

 = snap pizzicato

- ◆ The layout of parts in the score assumes the cellos arrayed across the stage in a kind of semi-circle—A Capella ensemble-like—with cello 1 at the far left and cello 8 to the far right.

# A Cappella

for the Tarab Cello Ensemble

dan trueman

♩ = 130

The score consists of eight staves, numbered 1 through 8. Each staff is in bass clef with a 3/4 time signature. The music is written in a key with one sharp (F#). The tempo is marked as ♩ = 130. The first staff (1) begins with a melodic line starting at measure 4, marked *mp* and *smooth, connected*. The second staff (2) is mostly silent. The third staff (3) has a melodic line starting at measure 7, marked *p*. The fourth staff (4) has a melodic line starting at measure 4, marked *mp* and *smooth, connected*. The fifth staff (5) has a melodic line starting at measure 4, marked *mp* and *smooth, connected*. The sixth staff (6) is mostly silent. The seventh staff (7) is mostly silent. The eighth staff (8) has a rhythmic accompaniment starting at measure 1, marked *pizz* and *mp*, with the instruction *ring like bells*. The score ends at measure 8.

10

A

*pizz.*

*mp*

smooth, connected

*mp*

smooth, connected

*mp*

smooth, clear, expressive, but minimal vibrato

*mp*

smooth, clear, expressive, but minimal vibrato

*mp*

smooth, connected

*mp*

*pizz.*

*mp* ring like bells

still pizz, let ring

subtle dynamic undulations, all within *mp*

continue with similar dynamic undulations

Musical score for 8 staves, measures 18-25. The score is written in bass clef for staves 1-3 and 6-8, and treble clef for staves 4-5. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The music consists of a rhythmic pattern in the bass lines and melodic lines in the treble lines. Dynamics include *mp* and *p*. The score is divided into measures by vertical bar lines.

26

**B** smooth, connected

1 *arco* *mp*

2 *pizz.* *mp*

3 smooth, connected *mp*

4 *p* *mp* *p*

5 *p* *mp* *p*

6 *pizz.* *mp* ring like bells

7 still pizz, let ring *mp*

8 smooth, connected *arco* *mp*

35

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

*mf*

*mp* *p* *mp* *p*

*mp* *p* *mp* *p*

*f*

let open notes ring until next "scritch"

C

43

*marcato* use open D

1 *f* *sp* *marcato* use open D

2 *f* *sp* (on all Eb's this section)

3 *mf* *mf* *f* *sp* (on all open As, but not harmonics)

4 *mf* *f*

5 *mf* *f*

6 *mf*

7 *f* *sp* (on all open As, but not harmonics)

8

\* this natural harmonic should be fingered closer to the nut, not conveniently close to the D#. the resulting swooping portamento from the harmonic to the D# is desirable.



48

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

use open A

continue swells through trill and harmonic groups

continue swells through trill and harmonic groups

continue swells through trill and harmonic groups

continue swells through trill and harmonic groups

Musical score for 8 staves, measures 53-57. The score is written in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. Staff 1 (bass clef) features a melodic line with triplets and accents. Staff 2 (treble clef) has a simple accompaniment. Staves 3-6 (treble clef) contain complex accompaniment with tremolos and slurs. Staff 7 (bass clef) has a rhythmic accompaniment with slurs. Staff 8 (bass clef) features a bass line with slurs and accents. The score includes various musical notations such as triplets, accents, slurs, and tremolos.

59

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

64 *sp* ----- *t*

1 *pp*

2 *pp*

3 *f*

4 *f*

5 *pp*

6

7 *pp*

8 *pp* *t* *p*

use open A

71

D

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

*pp*

*pp*

*t*

79

use open A *p*

1 *pp*

2

3 *pp* *p*

4 smooth, glassy *p*

5

6 *pp* *t*

7

8 *p* *sp*

86

1 Bass clef, 3/4 time signature. Measures 86-93. Dynamics: *t*, *p*. Articulation: *t*, *p*. Includes triplet markings.

2 Treble clef. Measures 86-93. Dynamics: *p*. Includes triplet markings.

3 Bass clef, 3/4 time signature. Measures 86-93. Dynamics: *t*, *p*. Articulation: *t*, *p*. Includes triplet markings.

4 Treble clef. Measures 86-93. Dynamics: *p*. Includes triplet markings.

5 Treble clef. Measures 86-93. Dynamics: *mp*, *sp vib.*. Includes triplet markings.

6 Bass clef, 3/4 time signature. Measures 86-93. Dynamics: *p*, *t*. Articulation: *t*. Includes triplet markings.

7 Bass clef. Measures 86-93. Dynamics: *pp*. Includes triplet markings.

8 Bass clef. Measures 86-93. Dynamics: *pp*. Includes triplet markings.

E

94

1 *t*

2 *pp*

3

4 *p*

5 *sp*  
*mp*

6 *p* *t*

7

8 *pp* *t*



101

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

*sp* *vib.*

*mp*

*p*

*t*

*p*

Detailed description: This musical score consists of eight staves. Staves 1, 2, 3, and 8 are bass clefs containing triplet eighth notes. Staves 4 and 7 are treble clefs. Staff 5 is a bass clef with a half note and a slur. Staff 6 is a bass clef with rests. Staff 3 has dynamics *p* and *t*. Staff 5 has dynamics *sp* and *vib.*. Staff 6 has dynamic *mp*. Staff 8 has dynamic *p*. The score is marked with measure numbers 101 through 107.

108 **p**

1 **p**

2

3 **p** **t**

4

5 *vib.* **mp**

6 **p** **t**

7

8

Detailed description of the musical score: The score consists of eight staves. Staves 1, 2, 3, and 6 are in bass clef and feature complex rhythmic patterns with triplets and slurs. Staff 1 starts with a dynamic marking of **p**. Staff 3 includes a **p** marking and a **t** marking. Staff 5 is in bass clef and contains a **mp** marking and a *vib.* instruction with a slur. Staff 6 is in bass clef and includes a **p** marking and a **t** marking. Staff 4 and 7 are in treble clef and contain sustained chords. Staff 8 is in bass clef and contains sustained notes. The score is divided into measures by vertical bar lines.

1 *ppp* *cresc.*

2 *pp*

3 *ppp* *cresc.*

4

5 *mp* *vib.*

6 *p* *t*

7

8 *ppp* *cresc.*

Detailed description: This musical score consists of eight staves. Staves 1, 3, and 8 are bass clefs with a key signature of one sharp (F#). Staves 2, 4, 5, 6, and 7 are treble clefs. Staff 2 begins with a dynamic of *pp*. Staff 5 has a dynamic of *mp* and a *vib.* marking. Staff 6 has a dynamic of *p* and a *t* marking. Staves 1, 3, and 8 feature a *ppp* dynamic with a *cresc.* marking. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, ties, triplets, and vibrato markings.

1 *mp*

2

3 *mp*

4

5 *mp* *vib.* *p* *mp* *p* *mp* *p* *mp*

6 *p* *pp*

7

8 *mp*

Detailed description: This musical score consists of eight staves. Staff 1 (bass clef) features a long melodic line with a wavy line underneath and a *mp* dynamic marking. Staff 2 (treble clef) contains a few notes with a wavy line underneath. Staff 3 (bass clef) has a long melodic line with a wavy line underneath and a *mp* dynamic marking. Staff 4 (treble clef) shows chords with wavy lines underneath. Staff 5 (bass clef) includes notes with vibrato (*vib.*) and dynamic markings *mp*, *p*, and *mp*. Staff 6 (bass clef) features triplets and a *p* dynamic marking. Staff 7 (treble clef) contains a sequence of notes. Staff 8 (bass clef) has a long melodic line with a wavy line underneath and a *mp* dynamic marking. A *pp* dynamic marking appears in the right margin of staff 3.

132

G

1 *p* *sp* *p* 6 6

2 *pp*

3 *p*

4 *pizz.* l.v. *mp* *arco* *p* 3 3 3 3 3 3 *t* *pp*

5 *pizz.* l.v. *mp* *arco* *t* 3 3 3 3 3 3 *p* *pp*

6 *mp* *p*

7 *pp*

8 *p* *sp* *p* 6 6

Musical score for 8 staves. The score is in a key with one sharp (F#) and a common time signature. The notation includes various dynamics and articulations:

- Staff 1:** Bass clef, continuous sixteenth-note patterns. Dynamics: *mf*.
- Staff 2:** Treble clef, rests. Bass clef, sixteenth-note patterns. Dynamics: *sp*, *p*, *mf*. Articulations: *6*.
- Staff 3:** Bass clef, rests. Dynamics: *sp*, *p*. Articulations: *6*.
- Staff 4:** Bass clef, rests.
- Staff 5:** Bass clef, rests.
- Staff 6:** Bass clef, rests. Dynamics: *sp*, *p*, *mf*. Articulations: *6*.
- Staff 7:** Treble clef, rests. Bass clef, sixteenth-note patterns. Dynamics: *sp*, *p*, *mf*. Articulations: *6*.
- Staff 8:** Bass clef, continuous sixteenth-note patterns. Dynamics: *mf*.

Articulation marks (trapezoidal shapes) are placed above and below notes in several staves, indicating specific performance techniques.

H

Musical score for 8 staves, measures 146-150. The score is written in bass clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The music consists of eighth-note patterns. Dynamics include *mf* (mezzo-forte), *p* (piano), and *sp* (sforzando). Articulation marks such as slurs and accents are present. A box labeled 'H' is located above the first staff at the beginning of measure 148.

This musical score consists of eight staves, numbered 1 through 8. Each staff contains five measures of music. The first two measures of each staff feature a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with accents. The third and fourth measures contain rests, while the fifth measure features a half note with a dynamic marking of *pp* (pianissimo). The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The notation includes various articulation marks such as accents and slurs.



158

I

1 *mp* *p* *mp* *p*

2

3

4 *pizz.* *mp*

5 *pizz.* *mp*

6

7

8 *mp* *p* *mp* *p*

164

1 *mp* *p* *mp* *p*

2 *pizz.* *mp*

3

4

5

6

7 *pizz.* *mp*

8 *mp* *p* *mp* *p*

Detailed description: This is a page of musical notation for an 8-staff ensemble. The music is in a key with one sharp (F#) and a common time signature. The score is divided into six measures. Staves 1 and 8 have a melodic line with dynamics *mp* and *p*. Staves 2 and 7 have a bass line with *pizz.* and *mp*. Staves 3 and 6 have a continuous eighth-note accompaniment. Staves 4 and 5 have a rhythmic accompaniment with dotted notes. The page number 164 is at the top left, and the page number 24 is at the bottom center.

170

J

1 *mf* *mp* *mf*

2

3

4 *arco* *sp* *p*

5 *arco* *sp* *p*

6

7

8 *mf* *mp* *mf*

176

1 *mp* *mf*

2

3 *p* *mf*

4

5

6 *p* *mf*

7

8 *mp* *mf*

Detailed description of the musical score: The score consists of eight staves. Staves 1 and 8 are in treble clef, while staves 2-7 are in bass clef. The key signature has one sharp (F#). Measure 176 starts with a treble staff (1) playing a melodic line with dynamics *mp* and *mf*. The bass staff (2) has a rhythmic accompaniment. Staves 3 and 6 have a lower melodic line with dynamics *p* and *mf*. Staves 4 and 5 play a dense sixteenth-note accompaniment. Staves 6 and 7 have a melodic line with dynamics *p* and *mf*. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, accents, and articulation marks.

181

1 *mp* *mf* *mp* *mf*

2 *arco* *mf*

3

4

5

6

7 *arco* *mf*

8 *mp* *mf* *mp* *mf*

Detailed description: This is a page of a musical score, numbered 27 at the bottom. It contains eight staves of music, numbered 1 through 8 on the left. The music is in a key with one sharp (F#) and a common time signature. The first staff (1) is in treble clef and contains a melodic line with dynamics *mp*, *mf*, *mp*, and *mf*. The second staff (2) is in bass clef, marked *arco* and *mf*, and contains a bass line. The third staff (3) is in bass clef and contains a line of notes with circles above them. The fourth and fifth staves (4 and 5) are in bass clef and contain dense, rhythmic patterns of notes. The sixth staff (6) is in bass clef and contains notes with circles above them. The seventh staff (7) is in bass clef, marked *arco* and *mf*, and contains a bass line. The eighth staff (8) is in treble clef and contains a melodic line with dynamics *mp*, *mf*, *mp*, and *mf*. The score is divided into five measures by vertical bar lines.

187

K

1 *mp* *mf* *mp*

2

3

4

5

6

7

8 *mp* *mf* *mp*

Detailed description of the musical score: The score consists of eight staves. Staves 1 and 8 are in treble clef, while staves 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 are in bass clef. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The time signature is not explicitly shown but appears to be 4/4. The score is divided into five measures. Measure 187 starts with a treble staff (1) and a bass staff (2). Measure 188 has a whole rest in the treble staff (1) and continues in the bass staff (2). Measure 189 has a whole rest in the treble staff (1) and continues in the bass staff (2). Measure 190 has a whole rest in the treble staff (1) and continues in the bass staff (2). Measure 191 has a whole rest in the treble staff (1) and continues in the bass staff (2). Dynamics are indicated as *mp* (mezzo-piano) in measures 187, 189, and 191, and *mf* (mezzo-forte) in measures 188 and 190. A rehearsal mark 'K' is placed above the first measure of the second system (measure 188). Staves 4 and 5 feature a dense sixteenth-note accompaniment with accents. Staves 6 and 7 feature a more sparse accompaniment with eighth and quarter notes.

192

1 *mf* *mp* *mf* *mp*

2 *mp*

3 *mp*

4 *cresc.* *mf*

5 *cresc.* *mf*

6 *mp*

7 *mp*

8 *mf* *mp* *mf* *mp*

Detailed description: This is a page of a musical score, page 29, starting at measure 192. It consists of eight staves. Staves 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, and 8 contain melodic lines with various dynamics: *mf* (mezzo-forte) and *mp* (mezzo-piano). Staves 4 and 5 feature a continuous sixteenth-note accompaniment with a *cresc.* (crescendo) marking leading to *mf*. Staves 6 and 7 have a similar accompaniment pattern. The key signature has one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The score ends at measure 196.

198

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

The image shows a musical score for eight staves, numbered 1 to 8. Staff 1 is in Treble clef and contains a slur over a line. Staff 2 is in Bass clef and contains a slur over a line. Staff 3 is in Alto clef and contains a slur over a line. Staff 4 is in Bass clef and contains a fermata symbol. Staff 5 is in Bass clef and contains a fermata symbol. Staff 6 is in Bass clef and contains a slur over a line. Staff 7 is in Bass clef and contains a slur over a line. Staff 8 is in Treble clef and contains a slur over a line. The number 198 is written above the first staff.







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