

Jason V. Barabba

What I Mean Is -

for Soprano and String Trio

(2009)

texts by David Bartone

What I Mean Is -

Movements:

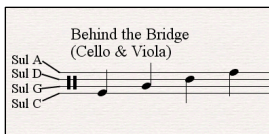
1. Haiku I
2. What I Mean Is -
3. Cadenza
4. Haiku II
5. Coda

Performance Notes:

Duration: Approximately 12 minutes



This notation indicates an abrupt end to the note as soon as the harmonic sounds. The actual harmonic sound is not the point as much as the sound of the transition from the fundamental to the artificial harmonic.



The 4-line staves for "Behind the Bridge" playing indicate which string is to be played, not a specific pitch.



In this pizzicato notation, the first note (in this case, grace note) is plucked normally, but the second square note is produced by releasing the string without re-plucking the note.

Fingernail pizzicati in the final movement can be played with a pick if that is the preference of the performer.

Texts

1. Haiku I

Complacency:

the driftwood snipped free.

Yes in plain sight.

2. What I Mean Is -

Your old walls made to shiver. The car that drives by in the rain, how when it streaks the long slow puddle out front it is ripping a sheet of paper. How long ought I let you by yourself, knowing the tears mean we grieve too slow and we grieve too fast?

There are nooks of the situation—"What awful work preening must be!"

There is so much loss in the waves when they land. There is an arc in every thing. The time of year is always excruciating — we can't stop now. What I mean is — if you ask the answer is yes. You know that.

4. Haiku II

In anger

the ivy lassoes itself.

I prove myself to no one.

What I Mean Is - is dedicated to Ann Noriel a soprano who has put up with way too much from me. Special Thanks to David for working with me on this project.

What I Mean Is - is registered with ASCAP.

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text by David Bartone

for Ann
What I Mean Is -
for soprano and string trio

Jason V. Barabba
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I. Haiku I

p

mp

Approx. ♩=100

Approx. ♩=100

Soprano

Violin

Viola

Com pla - cen - cy

p *ppp* *f* *ppp* *mf*

p *ppp* *f* *ppp* *mf*

p *ppp* *f* *ppp* *mf*

pizz. *mf*

pizz. *mf*

mf

9

S.

Vln.

Vla.

the drift - wood snipped free

mf *pp* *mf* *ff* *f* *mp*

arco

ppp *f* *ppp* *ff* *ppp* *mp*

f *ppp* *f* *ppp* *ff* *ppp* *mp* *ppp*

mf *ppp* *f* *ppp* *ff* *ppp* *mp* *ppp*

17

S.

Vln.

Vla.

ppp *ppp* *ff*

mf *mp* *f*

21

S. *mp* _____ *mf* _____ *p* _____ *mp* _____
 yes in plain sight

Vln. *pizz.* *p* _____ *mp* _____

Vla. *pizz.* *p* _____ *mp* _____

2. What I Mean Is -

Andante (Approx ♩=80)

Soprano *p*
 Your old walls made to shi - ver

Violin *arco con sord.*
ppp < ff _____ *ppp* _____ *p < mf > p* _____

Viola *arco con sord.*
ppp < ff _____ *ppp* _____ *p < mf* _____ *f* _____

Violoncello *con sord.*
ppp < ff _____ *ppp* _____ *p < mf > p mp* _____

31

S. _____

Vln. *mf* _____ *mp* _____ *f* _____

Vla. *mp* _____ *mf* _____ *mp* _____

Vc. _____ *f* _____

36 *mp* *p* *mf* *mp* *mf* *mp* *p*

S. The car that drives by in the rain, how when it streaks

Vln. *mp* *pp* *<f*

Vla. *p* *mp* *mf* *pp* *<f*

Vc. *mp* *mf* *p* *p* *mf* *pp* *<f*

senza sord.

42 *mf* *p* *mp* *mf*

S. The long slow puddle out front it is

Vln. *mf*

Vla. *mf*

Vc. *mf*

senza sord.

46 *f*

S. rip-ping a sheet of paper.

Vln. *mf*

Vla. *mf*

Vc. *mf*

49 *mp* *pp* *f*

S. *mp* *pp* *f*

Vln. *f* *ff*

Vla. *f* *ff*

Vc. *ff*

How _____ long

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

S. *mf* *f* *mf* *mp* *mf*

Vln. *p* *mp* *p* *mf* *f*

Vla. *p* *mp* *p* *mf* *f*

Vc. *p* *mp* *p* *mf* *f*

ought I ___ let you by ___ your self, ___ know-ing the tears ___ mean ___ we. grieve to ___ slow

61 *mp* *pp* *mf*

S. *mp* *pp* *mf*

Vln. *p* *mf* *p* *mp* (see performance note on inside cover)

Vla. *p* *mf* *p* *pp* *p* Behind the bridge. fingernail pizz.

Vc. *p* *mf* *p* *pp* *p* Behind the bridge. fingernail pizz.

mp (see performance note on inside cover)

and we grieve ___ too ___ fast? ___ There are nooks

67 *mp* *< > mp* *mp* *f*

S. *mp* *< > mp* *mp* *f*

of the sit-u - a - ion "what aw-ful work pree-ning_ must_ be!" _____

Vln. *f* *p subito*

Vla. *gliss.* *f* *p subito*

Vc. *f* *p subito*

74 *mp* *mf* *mp*

S. *mp* *mf* *mp*

there is so much _____ loss _____ in the waves _____

Vln. *mf* *mp* *p* *mp*

Vla. *mf* *mp* *p*

Vc. *mf* *mp* *p*

80 *f* *mp*

S. *f* *mp* *mp* *p* *p* *mp* *mf*

in the waves when they land.

Vln. *mf* *p* *p*

Vla. *mp* *mf* *p* *p* *mp* *mf*

Vc. *mp* *mf* *p* *mf* *mp*

86 *mf* *f* *ff* *mp*

S. *mf* *f* *ff* *mp*

There is an arc in e - vry thing.

Vln. *mf* *ff*

Vla. *mp* *mf* *ff* *mf*

Vc. *mf* *f* *mp* *f* *ff*

92

S. *mp* *p* *mp* *p*
 The time of year _____ is al-ways ex - cru - ci at -

Vln. *p*

Vla. *mp* *p* *mp* *p*

Vc. *p*

98

S. *mf* *p*
 ing we_ can't stop now_____ What I mean is_____

Vln. *con sord.* *ppp < ff* *ppp* *mf* *p* *< f*

Vla. *con sord.* *ppp < ff* *ppp* *mf* *p* *< f*

Vc. *con sord.* *ppp < ff* *ppp* *mf* *p* *< f*

106

S.

Vln. *mp* *p* *pizz.* *arco* *mf* *f* *ff*

Vla. *mp* *p* *pizz.* *arco* *mf* *ff*

Vc. *mp* *p* *mf* *f* *mf* *ff*

Slightly Slower

114 *mp* \rightarrow *p* *mp*

S. if you ask _____ the ans - wer _____ is yes.

Vln. *ppp* *mp* pizz.

Vla. *ppp* *mp* pizz.

Vc. *ppp* *mp* pizz.

121 *p*
espressivo.

S. You know that.

Vln. *p* senza sord. (arco)

Vla. *p* senza sord. (arco)

Vc. *p* senza sord. (arco)

Senza Tempo
Slow, Espressivo

3. Cadenza

127 *ppp* \rightarrow *mf* \rightarrow *f* \rightarrow *p* \leftarrow *mf* \rightarrow *p* \leftarrow *f* *p* \leftarrow *f* *p* \leftarrow *f*

Vla.

135 *pizz.* *gliss.* *gliss.* *mf* *gliss.* *gliss.* *5* *3* *arco* *ff* *fp* *mf* *pp* *ff* *mp* *f*

142 **Slow/Espressivo** *p* *mp* *pp < ff* *pp < ff* *pp < ff* *pp < ff*

148 **Senza Tempo**
Slow, Espressivo *f* *3* *3* *p* *mp > p* *mf* *ppp* *ff* *p* *5* *sul pont.*

153 *f* *ord.* *pp < ff* *f* *pizz.* *arco* *pp* *pp < ff* *ppp*

159 **Slow/Espressivo** *ff* **Hold absolutely still until Vcl entrance** **Laughing** **Sul A** *f* *spiccato* **Sul D** *mf*

\triangle = Highest possible note, non-specific pitch

4. Haiku II

166 Andante (Approx $\text{♩}=80$) *p* *f* *p*

S. *In an-ger*

Vla. *f* *pp* *f* *pp* *mf*

Vc. *f* *pp* *f* *pp* *mp* *f*

172 *mp* *f* *p*

S. *the i - vy la - ssoes it self*

Vla. *pp* *ff* *mp* *p*

Vc. *p* *ff* *mp* *mf*

178 *mf*

S. *I prove my-self to no one*

Vla. *pizz.* *arco* *mf* *pp* *mp* *f*

Vc. *arco* *ff* *p* *ff* *f*

182

Vla. *pp* *p* *pp*

Vc. *f* *pp* *p*

Moderato (approx ♩=100)

5. Coda

Behind the bridge.
fingernail pizz. (guitar pick OK)

regular pizz.

col legno battuto
with wooden chopstick

Violin

Violoncello

Behind the bridge.
fingernail pizz. (guitar pick OK)

regular pizz.

col legno battuto
with wooden chopstick

(see performance note on inside cover)

pizz.

f *mf* *p* *mf* *ff* *mp* *pp*

193

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

mf *f* *mp*

mf *f* *mp*

sul pont.

ord.

pizz.

ff *p* *mf* *p* *ff*

198

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

f *mp*

f *mp*

sul pont.

ord.

gliss.

pp *mf* *p* *ff*

201

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

p *f*

mf

pizz.

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

*See performance note