

# Three Scenes

*for Solo Cello*

Music by Joshua Fishbein

PREVIEW ONLY

Duration: c. 12 minutes

**Movement I - The Chase**  
**Movement II - Lamentation**  
**Movement III - Debate**

Three Scenes for Solo Cello showcases the full range of the unaccompanied cello in three virtuosic movements, each with its own unique character. The first, The Chase, is grotesquely reminiscent of a Bach Prelude. The music incessantly drives forward in a violent run of 16th notes, which outlines parts of the octatonic scale, chromatic scale, and Lydian mode. The second, Lamentation, is an unmeasured cry with some of the same scalar figures as the first, but in a rhythmically free context. Trills on high pitches conjure an image of birds, with low interjections that help provide harmonic grounding. The third movement, Debate, is the longest of the three. Here, the driving rhythm from the first is altered within a lilting mixed-meter dance of pizzicati. The music oscillates between slow and fast, as if it does not know where it is going, until a return to music from the end of the first movement brings closure to the work as a whole. Albeit heavy and violent at times, the piece ends with a pizzicato wink, to suggest a more light-hearted affect.

# I. The Chase

**Joshua Fishbein**

Fast, diabolical  $\text{♩} = 82$

*violently*

Cello

Vc.

Vc.

Vc.

Vc.

Vc.

Vc.

12

Vc.

14

Vc.

16

Vc.

18

Vc.

20

Vc.

21

Vc.

Vc.

22

Vc.

24

Vc.

25

Vc.

27

Vc.

29

31

Vc.

33

Vc.

35

Vc.

*sffz pp*

*sffz pp*

36

Vc.

*sffz p*

*molto cresc.*

37

Vc.

*(sffz mf)*

*(sffz ff)*

*molto cresc.*

*sffz ff*

*fff*

## II. Lamentation

**Cello**

**Vc.**

**Vc.**

**Vc.**

**Vc.**

**Vc.**

**Vc.**

**Vc.**

**Freely, lamenting (• = c. 36 - 52)**  
Con sord.  
*pp*

*pressing forward*      *pushing ahead more*

*relaxing, gradually*

*very relaxed*      *swinging, gracefully*      *slowing down (phrasing off)*

*faster, driving forward*

*linger*

*slower, declamatory*

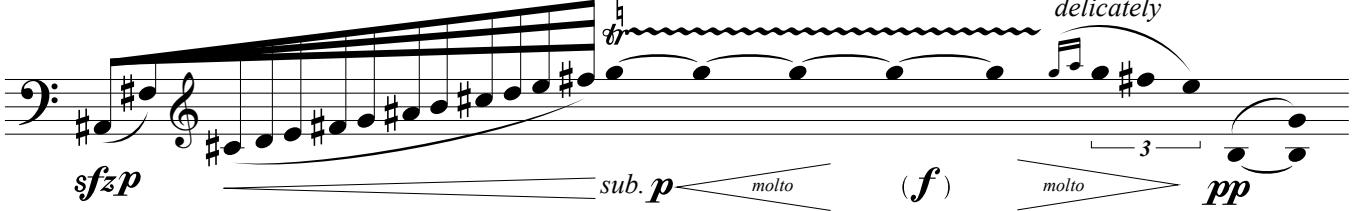
*cresc. more*

*f*

*ff*

*molto pp*

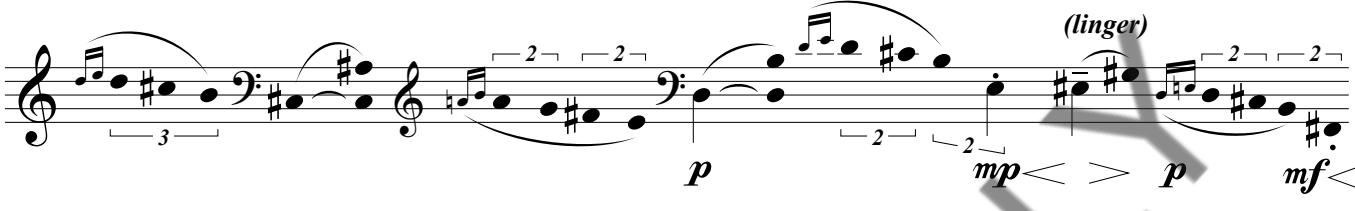
*violently driving ahead*

Vc. 

*floating*

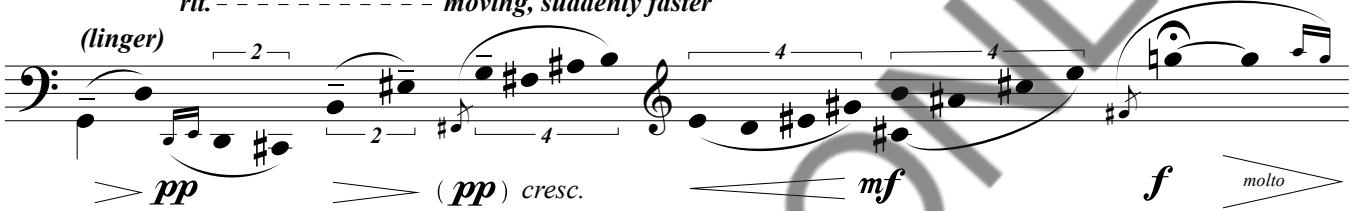
*delicately*

*a little slower*

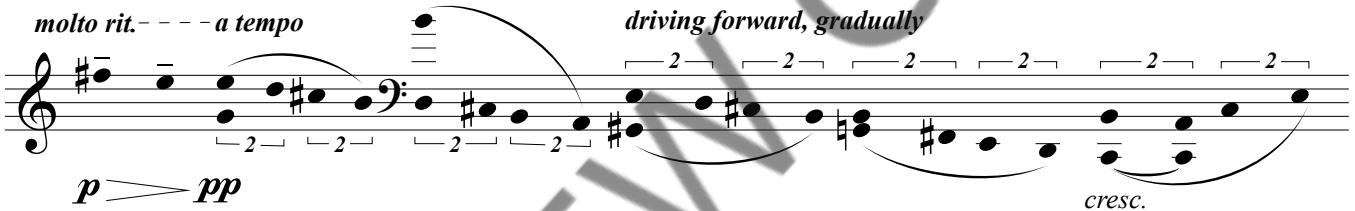
Vc. 

*(linger)*

*rit. - - - moving, suddenly faster*

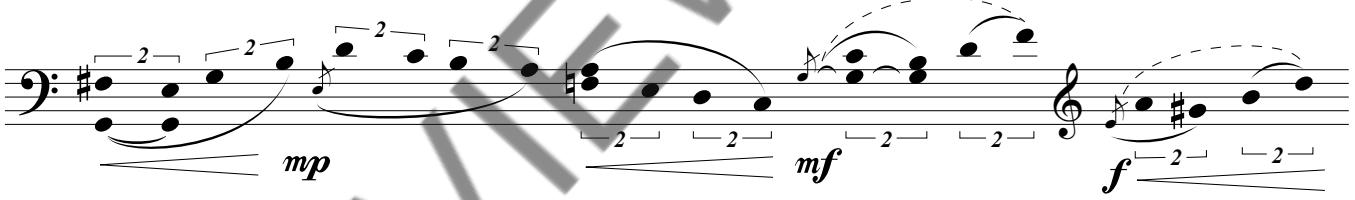
Vc. 

*molto rit. - - - a tempo*

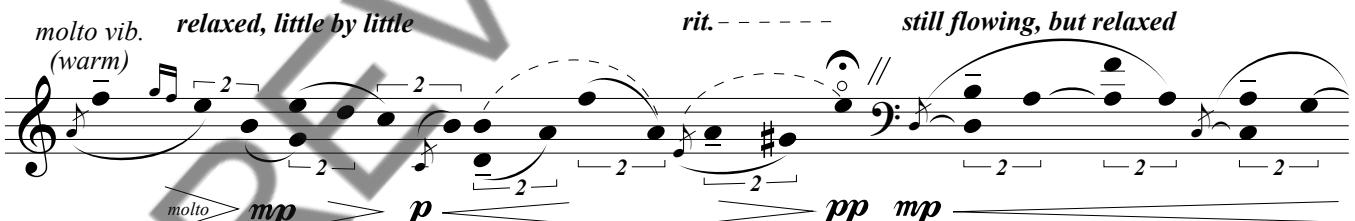
Vc. 

*driving forward, gradually*

*cresc.*

Vc. 

*molto vib. (warm) relaxed, little by little*

Vc. 

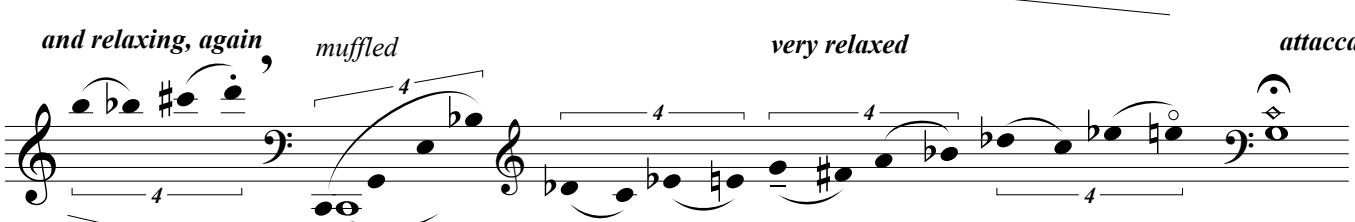
*rit. - - - still flowing, but relaxed*

*hurried, more and more*

Vc. 

*quickly building*

*and relaxing, again, muffled*

Vc. 

*very relaxed*

*attacca*

### III. Debate

**Dancing**  $\text{♩} = 160$

Senza sord.  
pizz.

Cello

5      cresc.

9      arco      pizz.  
f      lightly

13     arco      pizz.  
f      lightly

17     arco      pizz.  
f      lightly

21     pizz.  
mf    cresc. poco a poco

25     arco  
molto      ff

Note: Revisions were made to the third movement, after the premiere recording.

29

*lightly*

>

33

*lightly*

>

37

*pizz.*

*mf*

41

*cresc.*

45

*molto*

*sfz p* <> *pp* >

49

*sfz p*

*3*

*sfz p*

*3*

*3*

*mp*

*legato*

*sfz p* <> *pp* >

52

*sfz p*

*3*

*legato*

*sfz p*

*3*

*mp*

*sfz p*

*3*

*mf*

*f*

*ritardando poco a poco*

54 *dim.* *rit.*

*> mf <>* *> mp <>* *=>* *p* *<> >>*

**Slow, brooding**  $\text{♩} = 46$

58 *espr.* *sempre pp <>* *simile*

**Faster than the beginning**  $\text{♩} = 170$

63 *dim.*

67 *pizz.* *arco con vib.* *espri.* *pp <>* *pizz.* *arco* *pp <>*

71 *pizz.* *arco* *mf <>* *p <>* *pizz.* *arco* *mf <>* *sfp <>*

75 *f*

79

83

87

*subito p*    *molto cresc*

91

pizz.

*p*

95

*mp*

*mf*

*f*    *molto*

Slowly, lyrical  $\text{♩} = 48$

99

arco

*cantabile*

*sfp*

*mp*

*mf*

102

*espr.*

*p*

*mf*

*rit.*

Tempo primo, but with direction  $\text{♩} = 160$

105

*pizz.*

*mp*

*pp*

109

*Pressing forward gradually*  
arco

113

116

120

123

127

132

138

*subito p cresc.* *mf*

143

*sfz p cresc.* *mp* *mf*

Slower, lazily clodding ♩ = ca. 54

146

*f* *ff* *fff*

149

*fff* *mf* *mp* *dim.* *>*

*con rubato*

152

*poco rit.* *Slow, brooding ♩ = 46*

*espr.* *sfz pp < > (sempre pp) simile*

156

*dim.* *>*

Tempo primo, resolved  $\text{♩} = 160$

160 pizz.

164  $m\text{p}$  cresc.

168 arco *driving forward, until the end*  
f lightly >  $s\text{fz}$   $pp$  >  $s\text{fz}$   $pp$

172  $s\text{fz}$   $p$  molto cresc

*sffz*  $mf$  *sffz*  $mf$

175 molto cresc *sffz ff* *fff* pizz.  
 $p$