

ARITH-METRIC NO. 1 FOR STRINGS

for any combination of string instruments

BRIAN BALMAGES
(ASCAP)

MASTER SET Usage Guidelines

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Instrumentation

Usage Guidelines

Violin

Viola

Violoncello / Double Bass

About the Music

Arith-Metric No. 1 for Strings is the first in a series of pieces that explores self-paced developing music for literally any combination of string instruments. Originally conceived as a piece for any combination of wind and string instruments, this version is transposed up a step into a more string-friendly key and includes bowings. Inspired by Terry Riley's *In C*, the music includes a series of short fragments that performers move through at their own pace. The piece is written in 5 sections, all performed without stopping. Musicians repeat each fragment as much as they desire and then move on to the next line. Further, performers have the option of skipping a line or going backward any number of lines so long as they stay in the same section. Directors cue the entire ensemble at the beginning of each new section; regardless of where any performer is in the sequence, they immediately skip to the next section on the cue (even if they are in the middle of a phrase). The last section builds constantly until all players have completed line 35. Then, at the discretion of the conductor, all players move into the final chord.

This type of music allows students to explore pacing, development, and orchestration. There are a ton of "teachable moments" throughout and includes the opportunity to engage every single member of the ensemble. Students will enjoy how the piece can sound completely different each time and how the music brings a wonderful spontaneity to every performance (something we all can benefit from in the long run!).

Also available: *Arith-Metric No. 1* for any combination of instruments (band and strings).

—Brian Balmages

Master Set: \$45.00

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SECTION 1

With precision ($\text{♩} = 144$)

Many players should delay starting until others are a few lines in to the piece.
Repeat each line as desired before moving on, generally 1–3 times.

1 

mp

Continue repeating each line as desired before moving on,
moving back to the previous line, or even skipping a line.

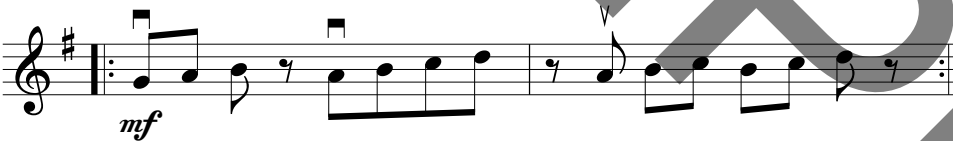
2 

Musicians may choose to jump back to any previous line at any time.

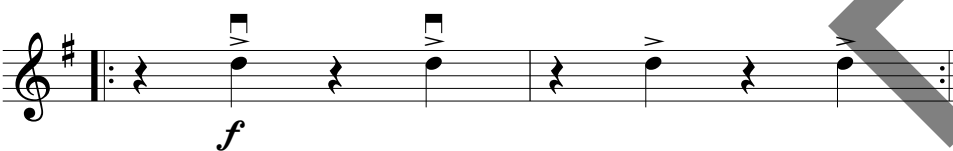
3 

begin gradual cresc. through the end of Section 1...

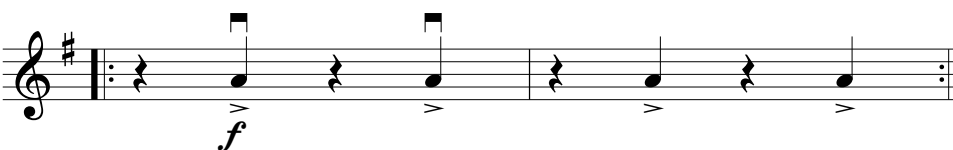
4 

5 

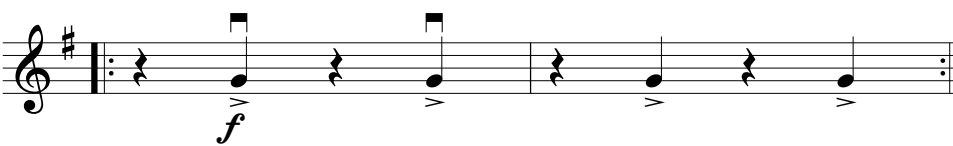
mf

6 

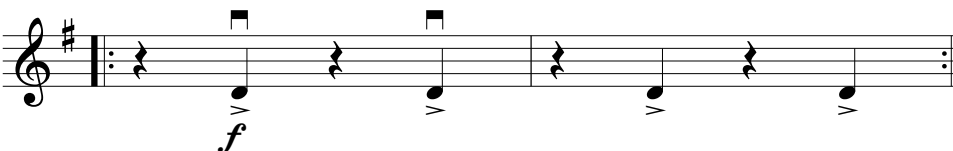
f

7 

f

8 

f

9 

f

End of Section 1.
Proceed to Section 2 all at once (on cue).
Some players will not have played all lines,
which is perfectly acceptable.

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2

Musicians may choose to jump back to any previous line at any time.

3

begin gradual cresc. through the end of Section 1...

4

5

mf

6

f

7

f

8

f

9

f

End of Section 1.
Proceed to Section 2 all at once (on cue).
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Violoncello **ARITH-METRIC NO. 1 FOR STRINGS**
Double Bass for any combination of string instruments

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With precision (♩=144)

Many players should delay starting until others are a few lines in to the piece.
Repeat each line as desired before moving on, generally 1-3 times.

1 
mp

Continue repeating each line as desired before moving on,
moving back to the previous line, or even skipping a line.

2 


Musicians may choose to jump back to any previous line at any time.

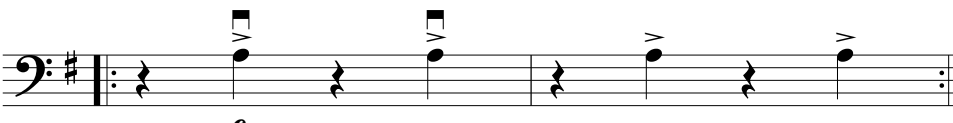
3 

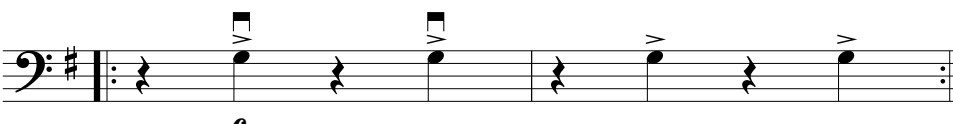
begin gradual cresc. through the end of Section 1...

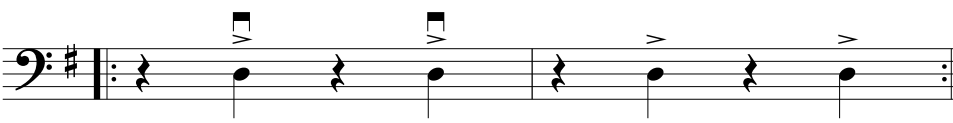
4 

5 
mf

6 
f

7 
f

8 
f

9 
f

End of Section 1.
Proceed to Section 2 all at once (on cue).
Some players will not have played all lines,
which is perfectly acceptable.

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