

# *Submerged*

*for solo cello*

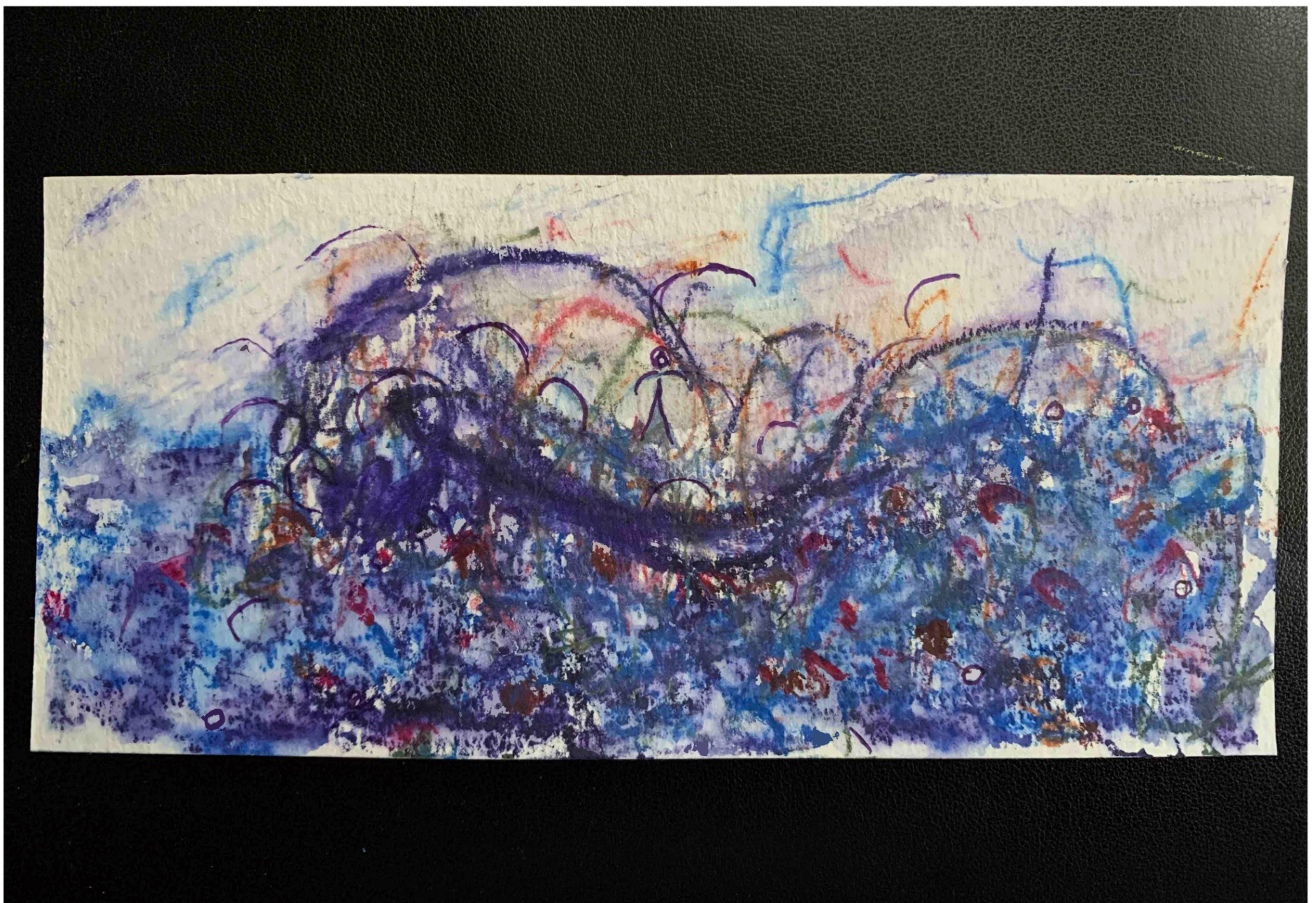
**by Evelyn Ficarra**



***Submerged** takes as its central metaphor the idea of being deep underwater, as if shipwrecked, and looking up to the light filtering in from above. There is striving upwards, breaking the surface, and resettling. 'Submerged' also refers to the unusual sounds hidden in cello tones which emerge through imaginative playing techniques and careful listening.*

*Submerged emerged through numerous exploratory meetings between the myself as composer and cellist Samuel Vincent. At our initial meeting, I showed Sam a coloured drawing which I had made (see below) and asked him to improvise to it. The sound he began with, which involved playing an open C whilst lightly tapping the adjacent string on a harmonic node, eventually became the opening. Through further improvisation and experimentation over several weeks, we developed a shared vocabulary which I shaped into the piece.*

*Submerged is dedicated to Sam Vincent with thanks for his imagination and dedication.*



***Submerged** (7') was commissioned for the 200 Pieces project, in celebration of the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Royal Academy of Music. It was premièred by Samuel Vincent on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> November, 2021.*

# NOTATION GUIDE

Indicates pitch we hear → III ← Play on G string

left hand taps string with harmonic pressure

This piece is notated across two staves for ease of reading. The upper staff is more to do with left hand actions, and the lower staff with right hand + bowing.

Left hand fingers drumming lightly on string with harmonic pressure

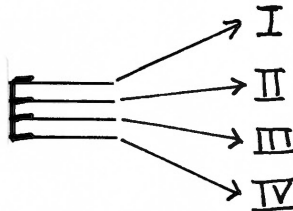
Indicates G string is in use, bowed.

Left hand fingers drumming lightly with harmonic pressure whilst executing an erratic glissando to higher notes.

Indicates G string is in use, bowed.

Left hand fingers drumming lightly with harmonic pressure whilst executing an erratic glissando to higher notes, meanwhile also tremolo with bow on G string.

Take a little pause.



This clef indicates playing the strings on the wrong side of the bridge.

A "hammer-on" or H.O. Tap hard on string so it hits fretboard with percussive sound. Some times string is specified. Could be with or without glissando. If no accent, a lighter tap between hammer-on and harmonic pressure.

Move from normal bow position to Sul Ponticello.

N. → S.P.

Indicates hammer-on for a note that is also bowed.

Angry fly buzzing in a jar

A harsh, overbowed, aggressive sound with buzzy fast erratic up and down glissandi, like a wide out of control vibrato.

With variable slowness  
♩ = 48-52

# SUBMERGED

Evelyn Ficarra

III (harmonic pressure)

Handwritten musical notation for measures 1-5. The top staff is in bass clef with a 3/4 time signature. It features a series of notes with 'x' marks above them, indicating natural harmonics. Above the staff, there are markings for fingerings: 'III' above measure 1, '3' above measures 2-3, and '5 5' above measures 4-5. A '(sim)' marking is present in measure 4. The bottom staff shows a bass line with notes and rests. Dynamics include 'p' and 'pp'. An 'S.P.' marking with an arrow is at the end of the system.

Handwritten musical notation for measures 6-9. The top staff continues with notes and 'x' marks. Above measure 6 is a '3' with a slur. Above measure 7 is a '3' with a slur. Above measure 8 is a '(2)' with a slur. Above measure 9 is '(drumming L.H. fingers)'. The bottom staff shows a bass line with notes and rests. Dynamics include 'p', 'f', and 'pp'. 'N.' and 'S.P.' markings with arrows are present.

Handwritten musical notation for measures 10-14. The top staff continues with notes and 'x' marks. Above measure 10 is a '3' with a slur. Above measure 11 is a '3' with a slur. Above measure 12 is a '3' with a slur. The bottom staff shows a bass line with notes and rests. Dynamics include 'p', 'f', and 'pp'. 'N.' and 'S.P.' markings with arrows are present.

Handwritten musical notation for measures 15-19. The top staff continues with notes and 'x' marks. Above measure 15 is a '3' with a slur. Above measure 16 is a '3' with a slur. Above measure 17 is a '3' with a slur. Above measure 18 is a '3' with a slur. The bottom staff shows a bass line with notes and rests. Dynamics include 'p', 'pp', 'mp', and 'N.'. 'S.P.' markings with arrows are present.

suddenly faster (♩ = 80)

Handwritten musical notation for measures 20-24. The top staff continues with notes and 'x' marks. Above measure 20 is a '3' with a slur. Above measure 21 is a '3' with a slur. Above measure 22 is a '3' with a slur. Above measure 23 is a '3' with a slur. The bottom staff shows a bass line with notes and rests. Dynamics include 'p', 'mp', 'mf', and 'f'. 'N.', 'S.P.', and 'Trummmmm' markings with arrows are present. 'pizz arco' and 'IV III' markings are also present.

Handwritten musical notation for measures 25-29. The top staff continues with notes and 'x' marks. Above measure 25 is a '3' with a slur. Above measure 26 is a '3' with a slur. Above measure 27 is a '3' with a slur. Above measure 28 is a '3' with a slur. The bottom staff shows a bass line with notes and rests. Dynamics include 'p', 'pp', 'mf', and 'p'. 'Rall' is written above the first two measures. '(III) Tempo Primo (♩ = 52-56)' is written above measure 27. 'arco' and 'S.P.' markings with arrows are present. 'pizz' and 's.p.' markings are also present.

(III) 25

mf p mp mf sub.pp

S.P. N. S.P.

(IV) 30

pizz 3 30 f mf

N. trem on IV

35

pizz 35 f mf

arco N. trem on IV

40

pizz 40 f mf p

Subitop

45

dim 45 f p pp ppp

(II) 50

(II) 50 S.P. N. p mp

Handwritten musical score, first system. It consists of two staves. The upper staff contains melodic lines with various articulations and dynamics. The lower staff contains bass lines with chords and fingerings. Handwritten annotations include "S.P." with an arrow, "N." with an arrow, "Sub. pp", "p", and "mp". Roman numerals "II" and "H" are also present.

Handwritten musical score, second system. The tempo marking "Allargando" is written above the staff. The system includes two staves with notes, rests, and dynamic markings such as "mf", "f", and "mp". Performance instructions like "pizz" and "arco" are included. Roman numeral "IV" and the text "4 piacere" are written above the staff.

Handwritten musical score, third system. This system features two staves with complex rhythmic patterns and dynamic markings including "mf", "f", "p", and "pp". Performance techniques like "pizz", "hammer on", and "arco" are indicated. Roman numeral "III" and the text "(hammer on)" are present.

Handwritten musical score, fourth system. This system includes two staves with notes, rests, and dynamic markings such as "pp", "mp", "p", and "S.P.". Roman numerals "I", "II", "III", "IV", and "65" are written above the staff. Performance instructions like "N." and "S.P." are also present.

Handwritten musical score, fifth system. This system consists of two staves. The upper staff has a single note with a "pizz" marking and a dynamic of "f". The lower staff has notes with dynamics "pp" and "PPP".