

John Casken

From One Thread

**for Solo Viola
(2020)**

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From One Thread for solo viola is in a single movement but with three clearly defined sections that draw on the Baroque suite. The first section is a capricious *Fantasia* which is followed by a short *Sarabande*, rather stately but with irregular metres, and the piece ends with an urgent *Courante*. Writing for a solo instrument is about tracing a single line and this reminded me of the parallels with the visual arts, and in particular the work of the major English textile artist Alice Kettle, to whom the piece is dedicated. Considering the way she uses different materials in her work, Alice has said that "A piece can develop from one thread." *From One Thread* was commissioned by the Royal Academy of Music, London, in recognition of its 200th anniversary in 2022 and the premiere performance was given by Miguel Sobrinho at the Royal Academy of Music on 10 November 2020.

Accidentals normally apply to notes in the same rhythmic group, and only in the same octave. Some accidentals are repeated for the purposes of clarity.

to Alice Kettle

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Fantasia ♩ = 72 (♩ = ♩)

s.v.*
III

mf — pp mp p < mp mf < f — p ppp sub.

v.n.**

S.V.
III

v.n.

f — pp ppp mf

♩ = 63

♩ = 72

f — p — mf — f

mp — pp f — mf — pp

mp — f — ff — mp

rit. — — — — — ♩ = 63

Tempo I (♩ = 72)

s.v.
II

v.n.

p ppp sub. mf — p — pp — p

LH pizz. (arco)

sim.

♩ = 58 rit. — — — — — ♩ = 72

I

II √ (arco sempre)

f — p — f — pp — f espr. — p — f

rit. — — — — —

s.v.

p — f — p — ff — mf ppp sub.

a tempo ♩ = 72

(arco) v.n.

f *p* *mf* *f*

p *f* *p* *mp*

rit. ♩ = 58

accel.

s.v. v.n.

p *pp* *ppp* *f espr.*

. ♩ = 96

♩ = 69 rit. ♩ = 58

♩ = 84

f *mp* *f* *ff espr.* *ff*

fff *ff* *f*

accel. ♩ = 96

rit. ♩ = 72

ff *f* *p* *ff* *f* *pp*

accel. ♩ = 96 rit.

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

. ♩ = 72

rit. ♩ = 58

p *pp* *mf* *mp* *p* *mf*

♩ = 72

(arco) l.v.

f *p* *attaca*

Sarabande $\text{♩} = 63$

mf f
 mf p f p
 mf p mf
 f mf
 p mf mp p pp *rit.*

$\text{♩} = 54$ $\text{♩} = 63$
 p pp mp p p pp *attacca*

Courante $\text{♩} = 84$

p mf p mf f p
 mf p f *sub.*
 f
 p ff

This musical score consists of ten staves of music, alternating between treble and bass clefs. The piece is characterized by complex rhythmic patterns, including sixteenth and thirty-second notes, and frequent use of slurs and accents. The dynamic markings are varied, ranging from *ppp* (pianississimo) to *fff* (fortississimo). The score includes several key changes, indicated by the presence of both treble and bass clefs on the same staff. The overall texture is dense and technically demanding.

Dynamic markings and articulation include:

- p* (piano)
- mf* (mezzo-forte)
- f* (forte)
- ff* (fortissimo)
- fff* (fortississimo)
- pp* (pianissimo)
- mp* (mezzo-piano)
- ppp* (pianississimo)
- p sub.* (piano, subito)