

duration: ca. 7 min.

# The Violinist in the Mall

a representation for violin & piano

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This piece is based on an experience I had shortly before its composition, noticing the profound effect on shoppers (including me) in a mall, as a violinist, who was selling his CDs, played familiar classical music amplified everywhere. In this work the piano is made to represent the shoppers. The piano plays alone at first, as directionless as they themselves are. After quietly sounding each string, the violin interrupts with a loud melody, startling the customers. A medley of classical favorites then ensues. The piano talks softly in the background, then joins in the music, even singing along. The mood of the entire mall becomes calm, then rises in emotion, breaking off in a happy frenzy. It is then that the violin seems to implore the people to make their own music. They do so at first, if a bit hesitatingly, but then as the violin vanishes, they drift all too quickly back to their directionless beginning. This piece can be taken on two levels, reminding us that though music is indeed lovely, it takes more than music to make someone's life become lovely forever. And so the violin, representing more than a violin, has the last word, a quiet note of hope placed at the end.

♩ = 80 but rubato

Musical score for measures 1-6. The piece is in 4/4 time. The piano part begins with a *mf* dynamic and the instruction "with energy but without direction". The score shows a series of chords and melodic fragments in both hands, with some triplets in the right hand.

Musical score for measures 7-10. The piano part continues with more complex rhythmic patterns, including triplets and sixteenth notes in both hands. The texture becomes more active and rhythmic.

Musical score for measures 11-14. The piano part features a mix of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some chords and triplets. The right hand has a triplet of eighth notes, and the left hand has a quintuplet of eighth notes.

Musical score for measures 15-18. The piano part continues with a mix of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some chords and triplets. The right hand has a triplet of eighth notes, and the left hand has a triplet of eighth notes.

19

0 0

*barely heard* *p*

22

0 0

*ff* *startling*

25

*not reacting at first*

3

*8vb - 1*

28

*mp*

*mp* *reacting*

*slightly rushed*

3

33

*cheerful*

*pp talking quietly*

*poco rubato*

36

*mf*

*Ped. ad lib.*

40

*5*

*8va*

*8va*

45

*3*

*f*

50 *mf*

54 *8va -1 subito pp* *(p) dolce*

*p* starting to sing along, but not quite together

61 progressively more cheerful and... becoming somewhat faster *mp*

67 cheerful *(p) ethereal* *8va -1*

72

*pp ethereal*  
(8va)  
*pp cheerful*

77

*a bit slower* *mp* *mp*  
*mf*

84

*somewhat rubato*

90

*8va*

96 *rit.*

*f*  
*rit.*  
*8va*  
*con fuoco*

102 *con fuoco*

*con fuoco*

108 *tr*

*tr*

114

*p*

119

*p* becoming lost in piano *f* molto rubato, like an exhortation

*mp* bubbling

125

*p* hesitating *mp* gaining confidence

130

0 0 0 0

*p* vanishing *mp* starting to lose it

senza ped.

135

*mp* as directionless as the beginning

139

*ppp* rubato, as way of reminder