
Stacy Garrop

Silver Dagger

for Violin, Cello, and Piano

PERFORMANCE NOTES

- Accidentals remain in effect throughout the bar, only in the octave shown.
- All grace notes are to be played before the beat.
- All trills are indicated in the score if they are to be trilled a minor or major 2nd.
- Glissandi last the entire duration of the indicated pitch.

PROGRAM NOTES

In 1994, I heard for the first time an Appalachian folk song called Silver Dagger at a folk festival. The simplicity of the melody joined with a cautionary love tale enthralled me, and I spent the next several years researching the song. What emerged from my research were dozens of variants of the song, both in terms of text as well as melody and title. The variants that I discovered could be grouped more or less under three different titles: Silver Dagger, Drowsy Sleeper, and Katie Dear. All of these versions revolve around the same Romeo and Juliet premise: a boy asks a girl for her parents' consent to marry. The story has various endings: the parents won't give approval, so the girl and boy each end their lives with a silver dagger; the girl turns the boy down and sends him away to find another love; the girl forsakes her parents and runs away with the boy; and so on. In my trio, I incorporate two complete versions of the folk song, one of Katie Dear and one of Silver Dagger, as well as motives from a variant of Drowsy Sleeper.

-S.G.

Duration: c. 5'

Silver Dagger

for the Lincoln Trio

Appalachian folk songs

Stacy Garrop
2009

♩ = 88 Timeless; freely

Violin

Violoncello

p

Let ring

Sim.

Folk-like; very freely
Little to no vib.

pp *8^{vb}*

Strike open palm on lowest strings

Sim.

8^{vb}

8^{vb}

Red. (hold until m. 20)

8

Poco Rit.

♩ = 72 Austere

Little or no vib.

mp

Little or no vib.

p

pp

Poco Rit.

♩ = 72 Austere

p *L.H.*

** Red.*

22

p *pp* *p*

* Ped.

26

pp *p*

* Ped. *

30

Coming to life
Ord. vib.
mp

mp *Ord. vib.* *Ord. vib.*

Coming to life

Pedal freely

8vb 8vb 8vb

Accel. poco a poco

33

mp

This system contains measures 33, 34, and 35. The upper staff features a melodic line with slurs and accents. The lower staff provides harmonic support with chords and moving lines. The dynamic marking *mp* is present.

Accel. poco a poco

mp

8^{vb}

This system continues measures 33-35. The upper staff has a more active melodic line with slurs and accents. The lower staff features a complex accompaniment with chords and moving lines. The dynamic marking *mp* is present, and an 8^{vb} marking is visible in the lower staff.

36

mf

mf

This system contains measures 36 and 37. The upper staff has a melodic line with slurs and accents. The lower staff provides harmonic support with chords and moving lines. The dynamic marking *mf* is present in both staves.

mf

8^{vb}

8^{vb}

8^{vb}

This system continues measures 36-37. The upper staff has a melodic line with slurs and accents. The lower staff features a complex accompaniment with chords and moving lines. The dynamic marking *mf* is present, and 8^{vb} markings are visible in the lower staff.

38

f

6/4

This system contains measures 38, 39, 40, and 41. The upper staff has a melodic line with slurs and accents. The lower staff provides harmonic support with chords and moving lines. The dynamic marking *f* is present, and the time signature 6/4 is indicated.

6/4

6/4

This system continues measures 38-41. The upper staff has a melodic line with slurs and accents. The lower staff features a complex accompaniment with chords and moving lines. The time signature 6/4 is indicated.

40 *Pressure accent* ♩ = 132 *Shimmering; energized*
ff *Lightly*
f *ff* *Singing* *mp*
8va *ff* *mp*
Ped.

44 *mp*

49 *mf* *Ped.* *Ped.* *Ped.*