
Robert Martin

Cello in the Universe
for Violoncello solo

CELLO IN THE UNIVERSE is a composition for violoncello solo in four movements. I conceived of this piece in a curious way – I experienced a dream. It was a dream of solo cello music that was unattached to our comprehension of time and space. In my dream, the music was coming from a cello floating in space. Perhaps at one time it was attached to a satellite, or a space station, but by accident it came unfastened from its lifeline-tether and began to drift forever through the universe. Of course, music cannot be heard in space. There is no air to transmit the vibrations to our eardrums. Nevertheless, I sketched down the idea and worked it out over the course of several months. The piece was composed in the summer of 2001 in Manhattan, New York. The premiere took place by the extraordinary cellist, Matt Goeke, at a concert of the Glass Farm Ensemble, on June 13th, 2010, at the Baryshnikov Arts Center in Manhattan, New York.

ROBERT MARTIN began composing at age 10. After receiving Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Music Composition from the Peabody Conservatory of Music, he worked at various jobs, including as an apprentice in pipe organ restoration. In 1976, the American Academy of Arts and Letters awarded him the Charles Ives Scholarship for outstanding music composition, allowing him to continue post-graduate studies in New York. In 1979, he received a Fulbright Scholarship to Vienna in music composition. Returning to New York in 1980, he turned his attention to Wall Street, rising to the position of Senior Vice President in investment banking at a leading firm, and serving as financial advisor to the City of New York. As the 1999 recipient of the Japan-U.S. Creative Artist Fellowship in music composition, he spent six months traveling throughout Japan. Active as a composer full time, he lives in midtown Manhattan, and travels widely in Asia, Europe and North America. Robert Martin's music is published by the Theodore Presser Company, and is recorded on the North/South Recordings, Furious Artisans, and CRI record labels.

to Matt Goeke

Cello in the Universe

for Violoncello solo

ROBERT MARTIN
(2001)

Duration: c. 9'

Sonoro ♩=44

arco

I.

7

11

14

rit.

a tempo

Lontano ♩=50

17

21

24

27

Sonoro ♩=46

29

The score is written for a solo cello. It begins with a tempo of **Sonoro** (♩=44) and an *arco* instruction. The first section, marked **I.**, contains measures 7 through 14. Dynamics range from *ppp* to *f*. There are several triplet markings. A *rit.* (ritardando) is indicated at the end of measure 14. The second section, marked **a tempo**, contains measures 17 through 27. It features a tempo change to **Lontano** (♩=50) starting at measure 17. Dynamics include *ff*, *pp*, *fff*, *ppp*, *p*, and *mp*. The score includes various articulations such as slurs, accents, and breath marks. The final section, marked **Sonoro** (♩=46), contains measures 29 through 32, with dynamics ranging from *ppp* to *f*.

Misterioso $\text{♩} = 58$

36 *p* *pp* *p*

41 *f* *p* *f*

45 *p* *pp* *f* *pp*

49 *ff* *f* *p*

54 *ppp* *ff*

Detailed description: This section of the score for 'Misterioso' is written in bass clef with a 2/4 time signature. It begins at measure 36 with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The music features a series of eighth and sixteenth notes, often grouped in triplets. Dynamics fluctuate, including pianissimo (*pp*) and forte (*f*). The piece concludes at measure 54 with a very soft (*ppp*) dynamic, followed by a final chord marked *ff*.

II.

Animoso $\text{♩} = 116$

pizz. *p*

6

11 *mp* *pp* *mp*

16 *pp* *mf* *pp*

21

26 *mf* *pp*

Detailed description: This section of the score for 'Animoso' is written in bass clef with a 6/8 time signature. It starts at measure 1 with a pizzicato (*pizz.*) instruction and a piano (*p*) dynamic. The tempo is marked as $\text{♩} = 116$. The music consists of a steady eighth-note pattern. Dynamics vary throughout, including mezzo-piano (*mp*), pianissimo (*pp*), and mezzo-forte (*mf*). The score ends at measure 26 with a pianissimo (*pp*) dynamic.

