

PIANO QUARTET

for piano, violin, viola, and violoncello

JOHN WILLIAM BRINK

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Duration: ca. 14'

Premiered on
February 20, 2025 by
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Sammy Lu, violin;
Nathan Gaynor, viola;
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Kresge Theatre, College of Fine Arts
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PREFACE

Piano Quartet is a three-movement work illustrating three forms of precipitative phenomenon. Each movement vividly embodies the percussive nature of each type, as well as eliciting the emotions one may feel while these weather patterns occur.

The opening movement, *Prelude – Like Rain*, opens on a straight sixteenth rhythm sounding of raindrops hitting a window, a gesture that is repeated throughout the movement. This motif is expanded with use of triplets and quintuplets, culminating into a pointed texture featuring numerous extended techniques in the strings. Returning material allays the movement, eventually unfolding into a diminution of the previous rhythm, portraying a storm finally settled.

Adagio – Like Snow, as similar to the first movement, commences with a viola solo, only this time unaccompanied. Continuing on, a more dense texture in the strings until the piano conjoins representing a glimmer in freshly precipitated snow. Dissonant harmonies unfold as the movement continues as ice is forming in the compacted snow, culminating into a glossy, flowing texture reminiscent of melting flakes.

Scherzo – Like Hail is the fiery third movement of the quartet, initialized by angled lines in the viola and violoncello, evoking an image of heavy precipitation. A harmonically dense march is followed by a lighter yet equally brooding pizzicato section including the third major viola solo in the piece. A final march follows, ending with a heavy blow on a wide-ranged chord.

PERRUSAL
SCORE

PIANO QUARTET

for William Roderick Brink

1. Prelude - Like Rain

John William Brink (2024)

Andante moderato (♩ = ca. 90)

Violin

Viola

Violoncello

Piano

p sempre legato

(con pedale)

sola

mf legato e espressivo

p — *mf*

Musical score for measures 8-11. The score is written for piano and includes treble, bass, and grand staves. Measure 8 starts with a treble clef and a whole note chord. Measure 9 features a triplet of eighth notes in the treble and a quintuplet of eighth notes in the bass, both marked with a forte (*f*) dynamic. Measure 10 continues with a forte (*f*) dynamic. Measure 11 shows a piano (*pp*) dynamic. A large watermark is visible across the page.

Musical score for measures 12-15. The score is written for piano and includes treble, bass, and grand staves. Measure 12 has a piano (*pp*) dynamic. Measure 13 has a piano (*pp*) dynamic. Measure 14 has a piano (*pp*) dynamic. Measure 15 has a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. A large watermark is visible across the page.

Musical score for measures 16-19. The score is written for piano and includes treble, bass, and grand staves. Measure 16 has a piano (*pp*) dynamic. Measure 17 has a forte (*f*) dynamic. Measure 18 has a piano (*pp*) dynamic. Measure 19 has a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. A large watermark is visible across the page.

30

Musical score for measures 30-31. The score is written for piano in 4/4 time. It consists of three systems. The first system contains three staves: Treble, Bass, and a grand staff (Treble and Bass). The second system contains two staves: Treble and Bass. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The time signature changes from 4/4 to 5/4 at the start of measure 31. The music features a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the bass and a melodic line in the treble.

32

Musical score for measures 32-33. The score is written for piano in 4/4 time. It consists of three systems. The first system contains three staves: Treble, Bass, and a grand staff (Treble and Bass). The second system contains two staves: Treble and Bass. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The time signature is 4/4. The music features a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the bass and a melodic line in the treble.

34

Musical score for measures 34-35. The score is written for piano in 4/4 time. It consists of three systems. The first system contains three staves: Treble, Bass, and a grand staff (Treble and Bass). The second system contains two staves: Treble and Bass. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The time signature is 4/4. The music features a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the bass and a melodic line in the treble.

36

B

mf *mp delicato*

B

mp delicato

39

41

pp

Musical score for measures 43-44. The score is in 4/4 time. The upper system consists of a grand staff with a treble clef and a bass clef. The treble clef part has a dynamic marking of *mf* that transitions to *pp* over a slur. The bass clef part has a dynamic marking of *p*. The lower system consists of a grand staff with a treble clef and a bass clef. The treble clef part has a dynamic marking of *p leggiero* and features triplet eighth notes with an *8va* marking. The bass clef part has a continuous eighth-note accompaniment.

Musical score for measures 45-48. The score is in 4/4 time. The upper system consists of a grand staff with a treble clef and a bass clef. The treble clef part has a dynamic marking of *mf* that transitions to *pp* over a slur. The bass clef part has a dynamic marking of *p*. The lower system consists of a grand staff with a treble clef and a bass clef. The treble clef part has a dynamic marking of *p* and features triplet eighth notes with an *8va* marking. The bass clef part has a continuous eighth-note accompaniment. The piece concludes with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

Musical score for measures 49-51. The score is in 3/4 time. The upper system consists of a grand staff with a treble clef and a bass clef, both of which are empty. The lower system consists of a grand staff with a treble clef and a bass clef. The treble clef part has a dynamic marking of *p rubato e legato* and features a melodic line with a *5* fingering and an *8va* marking. The bass clef part has a simple accompaniment with a *2* fingering. The tempo is marked *Moderato* with a quarter note equal to approximately 96 beats per minute.

63

f *marziale* *sf* *mf*

(senza pedale)

68

mf *f* *mf* *f* *sub. p* *leggiere* *mf* *f* *sub. p* *leggiere* *mf* *f* *tr* *f* *tr*

74

pizz. *p cresc.* *f* *p* *p cresc.* *f* *p* *p cresc.* *f* *tr*

80

pp *tr* \sharp

pp

E

p *pp*

p *pp*

E

p

92

p

p

p

98

f pesante arco
f pesante
f
mf
p
p
p

105

F *L'istesso tempo* *col legno*

[p]
col legno
[p]
pizz.
mf
F *L'istesso tempo*
[p] marziale

112

ord.

ord.
[p]
p

119

Musical score for measures 119-124. The score is written for a string quartet with two violins, two violas, and two cellos. The key signature has three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is 3/4. The first system (measures 119-124) features a melody in the first violin with dynamics *mf*, *ff*, and *ord. mf*. The second violin and viola parts are marked *col legno* and *mf*. The cello and double bass parts are marked *mf* and *sf*. The piano accompaniment consists of chords in the right hand and a rhythmic pattern in the left hand, both marked *mf*.

125

Musical score for measures 125-130. The first system (measures 125-130) continues the string quartet parts. The first violin part has dynamics *sub. ff*, *mf*, and *f*. The second violin and viola parts are marked *ord. arco* and *pizz.*. The cello and double bass parts are marked *sub. ff*, *mf*, and *f*. The piano accompaniment continues with chords and a rhythmic pattern, marked *f* in the right hand.

131

Musical score for measures 131-136. The first system (measures 131-136) features a more active string quartet. The first violin part is marked *ff*. The second violin and viola parts are marked *ff*. The cello and double bass parts are marked *ff*. The piano accompaniment continues with chords and a rhythmic pattern, marked *ff* in the right hand. The piece concludes with a double bar line and a fermata over the final chord.

8ba.-----

G

p fließend

(con pedale)

140

sola pp espressivo

sub. mf pp espressivo

144

rall. ----- H Tempo I (♩ = ca. 90)

rall. ----- H Tempo I (♩ = ca. 90)

8va

p

[*p*]

148

solo

mf *espressivo*

pp

152

mf

156

5/4

I

f *f*

161

p *mf* *dim.* *rall. al fine*
mf *dim.* *mf* *dim.* *rall. al fine*

163

(p) [*dim.*] *al fine* *ppp*
(p) [*dim.*] *al fine* *ppp*
(p) [*dim.*] *al fine* *ppp*
(p) *dim. al fine* *ppp*

B Largamente (♩ = ca. 60)

Musical score for the first system, measures 1-5. It features three staves: Treble, Bass, and a lower Treble staff. Dynamics include *pp* and *mf*.

B Largamente (♩ = ca. 60)

Musical score for the second system, measures 6-10. It features three staves. Dynamics include *pp stentando*, *mf*, and *pp*.

Musical score for the third system, measures 11-20. It features three staves. Dynamics include *mp*, *p*, *8va*, *mp*, and *mf*.

Musical score for the fourth system, measures 21-26. It features three staves. Dynamics include *fp*, *f*, *8va*, *f*, and *p rubato*.

34

p *pp* *p* *pp dim.* *ppp* [*ppp*]

8ba

C

43

sul pont. *ppp*

pp

48

pp *n*

52

ord.
ppp
ppp
mp cresc. ----- *f*
ppp
mp cresc. ----- *f*
sub. pp

D poco meno mosso (♩ = ca. 55)

ppp
pp

D poco meno mosso (♩ = ca. 55)

ppp
ppp

60

ppp
pp

First system of musical notation, measures 65-74. It features a grand staff with treble and bass clefs. The upper part includes a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The piano part has a melodic line with slurs and fingering numbers 5 and 6. Dynamics include *mp*.

Second system of musical notation, measures 75-84. It features a grand staff with treble and bass clefs. The piano part has a complex texture with slurs, triplets, and an *8va* (octave) marking. Dynamics include *p*.

Third system of musical notation, measures 85-94. It features a grand staff with treble and bass clefs. The piano part has a melodic line with slurs and triplets. Dynamics include *ppp* and *dim. al fine*. The system concludes with a double bar line and a fermata.

3. Scherzo - Like Hail

Allegro con fuoco (♩ = ca. 130)

Violin

Viola

Violoncello

Piano

senza sord.

ff

senza sord.

ff

Allegro con fuoco (♩ = ca. 130)

senza sord.

mf

mf

mf

mf

11

fp

f

mf

fp

f

mf

A

[mf]

A

sf

f

21

pizz.

arco

sfz

sfz

ff

mf

f

sf

sf

sf

26

fp cresc.

f

fp cresc.

sf

sf

mf

31 **B Andante marziale** (♩ = ca. 80)

fp cresc. *ff* *f* *ff*

B Andante marziale (♩ = ca. 80)

p *ff*

35 **Tempo I** (♩ = ca. 130)

mf *ff* *mf* *ff*

Tempo I (♩ = ca. 130)

[ff] *8va*

40

fp *fp* *f*

f *ff*

Musical score for measures 45-51. The score is in 3/4 time and features a piano accompaniment with a melody in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The melody consists of eighth and sixteenth notes. The bass line is a simple eighth-note accompaniment. Dynamics include *f* and *ff*. A large watermark is visible across the page.

52 **C Molto allegro ma non troppo** (♩ = ca. 90)

Musical score for measures 52-56. The score is in 3/4 time and features a piano accompaniment with a melody in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The melody consists of eighth and sixteenth notes. The bass line is a simple eighth-note accompaniment. Dynamics include *[f]*, *sf*, and *f*. A large watermark is visible across the page.

C Molto allegro ma non troppo (♩ = ca. 90)

Musical score for measures 57-63. The score is in 3/4 time and features a piano accompaniment with a melody in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The melody consists of eighth and sixteenth notes. The bass line is a simple eighth-note accompaniment. Dynamics include *f*, *sfz*, and *f*. A large watermark is visible across the page.

57

Musical score for measures 64-70. The score is in 3/4 time and features a piano accompaniment with a melody in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The melody consists of eighth and sixteenth notes. The bass line is a simple eighth-note accompaniment. Dynamics include *ff*, *mf*, and *sf*. A large watermark is visible across the page.

61

Musical score for measures 61-65. The system consists of three staves: Treble, Bass, and Piano. The Treble staff has dynamics *mf*, *ff*, and *fp*. The Bass staff has dynamics *sf*, *mf*, and *ff*. The Piano part has dynamics *sf*, *mf*, *ff*, and *mf*. A large watermark 'PREPARED' is visible across the page.

Piano accompaniment for measures 61-65. The system consists of two staves: Treble and Bass. The Treble staff has dynamics *sf*, *mf*, *ff*, *mf*, and *ff*. The Bass staff has dynamics *sf*, *mf*, *ff*, *mf*, and *ff*. A circled '8' is at the bottom left. A dashed line is at the bottom.

66

Musical score for measures 66-70. The system consists of three staves: Treble, Bass, and Piano. The Treble staff has dynamics *f* and *ff*. The Bass staff has dynamics *sf*, *sf*, *sf*, and *ff*. The Piano part has dynamics *sf*, *mf*, *sf*, *mf*, and *f*. A circled '8' is at the bottom left. A dashed line is at the bottom.

Piano accompaniment for measures 66-70. The system consists of two staves: Treble and Bass. The Treble staff has dynamics *sf*, *mf*, *sf*, *mf*, and *f*. The Bass staff has dynamics *sf*, *mf*, *sf*, *mf*, and *f*. A circled '8' is at the bottom left. A dashed line is at the bottom.

Musical score for measures 71-75. The score is written for three staves: Treble, Bass, and Piano. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The music features a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes and quarter notes. Dynamic markings include *ff* (fortissimo) in measures 73 and 74. A first ending bracket labeled (8) spans measures 74 and 75.

Musical score for measures 76-80. The score is written for three staves: Treble, Bass, and Piano. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The tempo is marked **D Con moto** with a metronome marking of $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 120$. Dynamic markings include *sf* (sforzando) and *mf* (mezzo-forte). The piano part includes *pizz.* (pizzicato) markings in measures 77 and 79. A first ending bracket labeled (8) spans measures 79 and 80.

Musical score for measures 81-85. The score is written for three staves: Treble, Bass, and Piano. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The tempo is marked **D Con moto** with a metronome marking of $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 120$. Dynamic markings include *mp* (mezzo-piano) and *sfp* (sforzando piano). The piano part includes *pizz.* (pizzicato) markings in measures 82 and 84. A first ending bracket labeled (8) spans measures 84 and 85.

96 **F**

mf *f* *mf* *mf* *arco* *mf*

F

p

101

fp *f* *fp* *f*

G

mf *f* *mf* *fp* *sf* *fp* *sf* *mf*

G

f *mf*

111

arco

mf *f* *mf* *ff*

115

f *ff*

118

H

mf *ff* *mf* *ff*

H

121

Musical score for measures 121-124. The score is written for piano and includes a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) and a separate grand staff for the right and left hands. The music features a complex rhythmic pattern with many sixteenth notes and rests. A dynamic marking of *ff* (fortissimo) is present in the lower right of the second system.

125

Musical score for measures 125-128. The score is written for piano and includes a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) and a separate grand staff for the right and left hands. The music features a complex rhythmic pattern with many sixteenth notes and rests. The time signature changes from 3/4 to 4/4 and then to 3/4. A dynamic marking of *ff* (fortissimo) is present in the lower right of the second system.

129

Musical score for measures 129-132. The score is written for piano and includes a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) and a separate grand staff for the right and left hands. The music features a complex rhythmic pattern with many sixteenth notes and rests. The time signature changes from 3/4 to 4/4 and then to 3/4. Dynamic markings include *fp* (piano fortissimo), *ff* (fortissimo), and *fff* (fortississimo). There are also markings for *8va* and *8ba* (octave up and down) in the lower right of the second system.