

James Weeks

**Low Country**  
(2004)

for string quartet

University of York Music Press

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## Duration

20 minutes

## General Notes

Sempre senza vibrato.

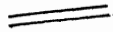
Dynamics should be quiet throughout, with some variation ad lib.

The rhythm should be precise and light.

## Co-ordination and timing

There are roughly 30 seconds per system (page one lasts 1'30, the rest c.1'00)

Gaps in the music should be judged approximately, according to size.

Allow for small margins at either side of the page (roughly delineated by the centre of the  sign).

When instruments are to continue *without* a break from one system to the next, the signs  and  are used to indicate this.

For points of entry, each instrument should co-ordinate vertically with the part that entered immediately previously, where possible.

It is expected that vertical co-ordination be generally fluid. Instruments should only co-ordinate exactly with one another when their barlines are joined together. The fourth canon (p.19) should also be in strictly co-ordinated rhythm.

\* On pp.12-13, when Vn1, Vla and Vc finish their canons they should co-ordinate with Vn2 in beginning the next section ( $\downarrow = 69$ ). This may entail missing out a few notes or a phrase while the Vn2 part is located. Vn2 will indicate clearly the start of its  $\downarrow = 69$  passage.

### Other notational points

Clefs are indicated only for each instrument's first entry. They remain the same throughout, as shown:




Key signatures, which are indicated at the beginning of each line or fragment as normal, are either  $\flat$  or  $\sharp$ . Accidentals affect only the notes they immediately precede.

[ ] on p.12: do not play in between the brackets, but continue to follow your line as written.



$\sharp$  or  $\flat$  in front of a fragment: all notes either up or down a quartertone as indicated.



Quartertones:  $\sharp$  =  $\frac{1}{4}$  sharp,  $\sharp\sharp$  =  $\frac{3}{4}$  sharp,  $\flat$  =  $\frac{1}{4}$  flat,  $\flat\flat$  =  $\frac{3}{4}$  flat.

 light ricochet

### 'Cello's notation

The notation is generic, *not literal*. Do *not* play exactly the strokes indicated, but use the notation as a guide to general frequency and differentiation of strokes (it might be found useful to learn the passage as written first). The two legato passages should occur roughly where indicated. Co-ordinate starts and ends of passages with other instruments.

 upbow strokes of different lengths on harmonic G on C-string (  sounds up 8ve). Vary the weight and speed of bow slightly *ad lib*, within a general *p flautando*. The tone should be resonant and gentle, mysterious and glowing.

Slight discolorations may occur occasionally (  or  ); a few strokes may be entirely  $\sharp$  or  $\flat$ , thus stopping the harmonic. On page 17 as indicated, begin to cross over to the G string (D harmonic), and use both G and D harmonics separately or occasionally together until end of the passage.

# Low Country

## *Homage to Aldo Clementi*

for string quartet

2004

*Low Country* is the second in a trilogy of works entitled *Schilderkonst* ('Art of Painting'). All three pieces use a fragment of Ockeghem (the 'In nomine Domini' section from the Benedictus of the *Missa Prolationum*) and explore Art's relation to 'the real' with reference to the Netherlandish art of the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries. In *Low Country*, the source material is turned into a number of canons (distinguished by tempo and sometimes articulation) which are sounded either partially (with rests, cut into pieces) or in full. The music's discourse is fragmentary, haphazardly arranged. Gestures are accidental and insignificant. The music is 'low' in the sense of ordinary, quotidian (a de Hooch 'genre' scene?), anti-rhetorical, roughly-fashioned, non-transcendental, quiet. The connection to Clementi is the canons.

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Vc

==

Vc

==

Vc

perusal score  
not for performance  
[www.uymp.co.uk](http://www.uymp.co.uk)

Begin after 1'30

$\downarrow$   $\text{♩} = 60$

Handwritten musical score for two violins (VN1 and VN2). The music is in 3/4 time with a tempo of  $\text{♩} = 60$ . The key signature has one sharp (F#). The score consists of 8 measures. VN1 plays a melodic line with eighth and quarter notes, while VN2 provides harmonic support with chords and eighth notes.

Vc

Handwritten musical score for two violins (VN1 and VN2). The tempo is  $\text{♩} = 60$ . The key signature has one sharp (F#). The score consists of 8 measures. VN1 has a melodic line with a *poco* marking in the 7th measure. VN2 plays a rhythmic accompaniment.

Handwritten musical score for a Viola (VLA). The tempo is  $\text{♩} = 72$ . The key signature has one sharp (F#). The score consists of 2 measures.

Vc

Handwritten musical score for Violin 1 (VNI) and Violin 2 (VN2). The tempo is marked as  $\text{♩} = 60$ . The VNI part features a melodic line with some rests, while the VN2 part provides a harmonic accompaniment. A *poco* marking is present below the VN2 staff.

Handwritten musical score for Viola (VLA). The tempo is marked as  $\text{♩} = 72$ . The VLA part consists of a melodic line with some rests.

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Handwritten musical score for Viola (VLA). The tempo is marked as  $\text{♩} = 72$ . The VLA part consists of a melodic line with some rests.

Handwritten musical score for Violin 1 (VNI), Violin 2 (VN2), Viola (VLA), and Violoncello (VC). The tempo is marked as  $\text{♩} = 60$ . The VNI part has a tempo of  $\text{♩} = 56$ . The VN2 part has a tempo of  $\text{♩} = 60$ . The VLA part has a tempo of  $\text{♩} = 66$ . The VC part has a tempo of  $\text{♩} = 63$ . The VNI and VLA parts include a *(b) 3* marking.

Handwritten musical score for the first system, featuring four staves: Violin 1 (VN1), Violin 2 (VN2), Viola (VLA), and Violoncello (VC). The tempo markings are  $\text{♩} = 56$ ,  $\text{♩} = 60$ ,  $\text{♩} = 63$ , and  $\text{♩} = 63$  (with a  $\text{♩} = 63$  marking above the first measure of the VC staff). The score includes various rhythmic patterns, including triplets and sixteenth-note runs, and is marked with a large watermark: "www.uymusic.com for performance score".

Handwritten musical score for the second system, featuring four staves: Violin 1 (VN1), Violin 2 (VN2), Viola (VLA), and Violoncello (VC). The tempo markings are  $\text{♩} = 56$ ,  $\text{♩} = 60$ ,  $\text{♩} = 66$ , and  $\text{♩} = 63$ . The VC staff includes a tempo change to  $\text{♩} = 69$  starting at the 11th measure. The score includes various rhythmic patterns, including triplets and sixteenth-note runs, and is marked with a large watermark: "www.uymusic.com for performance score".

VC  $\text{♩} = 69$

W1  $\text{♩} = 69$   
W2  $\text{♩} = 76$   
VLA  $\text{♩} = 76$

W1  $\text{♩} = 80$

W2  $\text{♩} = 80$

VLA  $\text{♩} = 76$

W1  $\text{♩} = 76$

W2  $\text{♩} = 66$

VLA  $\text{♩} = 69$   
VC  $\text{♩} = 72$

Handwritten musical notation for Violin 1 (VN1). The tempo is marked as  $\text{♩} = 76$ . The staff shows a melodic line with various rhythmic values and accidentals.

Handwritten musical notation for Violin 2 (VN2). The tempo is marked as  $\text{♩} = 66$ . The staff shows a melodic line with various rhythmic values and accidentals.

Handwritten musical notation for Violin A (VLA). The tempo is marked as  $\text{♩} = 80$ . The staff shows a melodic line with various rhythmic values and accidentals.

Handwritten musical notation for Violin A (VLA). The tempo is marked as  $\text{♩} = 66$ . The staff shows a melodic line with various rhythmic values and accidentals.

Handwritten musical notation for Violoncello (VC). The tempo is marked as  $\text{♩} = 72$ . The staff shows a melodic line with various rhythmic values and accidentals.

Handwritten musical notation for Violin 1 (VN1). The tempo is marked as  $\text{♩} = 80$ . The staff shows a melodic line with various rhythmic values and accidentals.

Handwritten musical notation for Violin 2 (VN2). The tempo is marked as  $\text{♩} = 72$  and includes the instruction "detache". The staff shows a melodic line with various rhythmic values and accidentals.

Handwritten musical notation for Violin A (VLA). The tempo is marked as  $\text{♩} = 72$  and includes the instruction "detache". The staff shows a melodic line with various rhythmic values and accidentals.

Handwritten musical notation for Violoncello (VC). The tempo is marked as  $\text{♩} = 72$  and includes the instruction "detache". The staff shows a melodic line with various rhythmic values and accidentals.

Handwritten musical notation for Violin 1 (VN1). The tempo is marked as  $\text{♩} = 66$ . The staff shows a melodic line with various rhythmic values and accidentals.

Handwritten musical notation for Violin 2 (VN2). The tempo is marked as  $\text{♩} = 69$ . The staff shows a melodic line with various rhythmic values and accidentals.

Handwritten musical notation for Violin A (VLA). The tempo is marked as  $\text{♩} = 69$ . The staff shows a melodic line with various rhythmic values and accidentals.

Handwritten musical notation for Violoncello (VC). The tempo is marked as  $\text{♩} = 72$ . The staff shows a melodic line with various rhythmic values and accidentals.

Handwritten musical notation for Violin 1 (VN1), Violin 2 (VN2), and Viola (VLA).  
VN1:  $\text{♩} = 72$   
VN2:  $\text{♩} = 69$   
VLA:  $\text{♩} = 69$  (with a  $\flat$  below the staff)

Handwritten musical notation for Violin 1 (VN1), Violin 2 (VN2), Viola (VLA), and Violoncello (VC).  
VN1:  $\text{♩} = 69$   
VN2:  $\text{♩} = 72$ , *détaché*  
VLA:  $\text{♩} = 72$ , *détaché*  
VLA:  $\text{♩} = 80$   
VC:  $\text{♩} = 76$

Handwritten musical notation for Viola (VLA).  
VLA:  $\text{♩} = 80$

Handwritten musical notation for Violoncello (VC).  
VC:  $\text{♩} = 76$

Handwritten musical notation for Violin 1 (VN1), Violin 2 (VN2), and Viola (VLA).  
VN1:  $\text{♩} = 66$   
VN2:  $\text{♩} = 66$   
VLA:  $\text{♩} = 84$

Handwritten musical score for Violin I (VNI) and Violin II (VN2). The tempo is marked as  $\text{♩} = 66$ . The score consists of two staves with various rhythmic patterns and rests.

Handwritten musical score for Violin I (VNI) and Violin II (VN2). The tempo is marked as  $\text{♩} = 66$ . The score consists of two staves with rhythmic patterns.

Handwritten musical score for Violin I (VNI) and Violin II (VN2). The tempo for VNI is marked as  $\text{♩} = 60$  (b) and for VN2 as  $\text{♩} = 90$  (b). The score consists of two staves with rhythmic patterns.

Handwritten musical score for Viola (VLA) and Violoncello (VC). The tempo for VLA is marked as  $\text{♩} = 40$  with the instruction "like a cantus firmus". The tempo for VC is marked as  $\text{♩} = 60$ . The score consists of two staves with rhythmic patterns and triplets.

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(♩=40)

VN2

Vc



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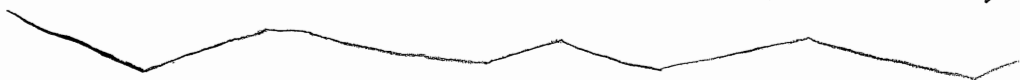
♩=76

VN2

VLA

*molto ritmico*

Vc



VN1  $\text{♩} = 80$

VN1  $\text{♩} = 72$   
*flautando*

VN2  $\text{♩} = 84$   
VLA

VC

perusal score  
not for performance  
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VN1  $\text{♩} = 72$

VN2  $\text{♩} = 66$   
VLA  $\text{♩} = 69$

$\text{♩} = 60$   
*accel* *rit* (4)

VC

Handwritten musical score for the first system, consisting of four staves. The notation includes various dynamics and performance instructions:

- Staff 1: *♩=60 accel.*, *rit.*, *(b)*, *(tacet)*, *♩=60 accel.*, *rit.*, *(play)*
- Staff 2: *♩=60 accel.*, *rit.*, *(b)*, *♩=60 accel.*, *rit.*, *♩=60 accel.*
- Staff 3: *(rit.)*, *♩=60 accel.*, *rit.*, *(tacet)*, *♩=60 accel.*, *rit.*, *(play)*, *(b)*, *♩=60 accel.*
- Staff 4: *(rit.)*, *♩=60 accel.*, *(b) rit.*, *♩=60 accel.*, *rit.*, *(h)*, *♩=60 accel.*, *(tacet)*

Handwritten musical score for the second system, consisting of four staves. The notation includes various dynamics and performance instructions:

- Staff 1: *♩=60 accel.*, *rit.*, *(b)*, *♩=60 accel.*, *rit.*, *(h)*, *♩=60 accel.*
- Staff 2: *rit.*, *♩=60 accel.*, *(h)*, *(b)*, *GIVE GESTURE\**, *♩=69 dolce e leggiero*, *pp*
- Staff 3: *rit.*, *♩=60 accel.*, *(b) rit.*, *(tacet)*, *(play)*, *♩=69 dolce e leggiero*, *colla mII\**, *pp*
- Staff 4: *rit.*, *(b)*, *♩=60 accel.*, *(h)*, *♩=69 dolce e leggiero*, *colla mII\**

*♩=69 dolce e leggiero*  
colla VnII\*

The first system of the handwritten musical score consists of four staves. The top staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a tempo marking of quarter note = 69, with the performance instructions 'dolce e leggiero' and 'colla VnII\*'. The music is written in a 3/4 time signature. The notation includes eighth and sixteenth notes, rests, and slurs across all four staves. A large, semi-transparent watermark 'www.Perusal.co.uk' is overlaid diagonally across the page.

The second system of the handwritten musical score consists of four staves. It continues the musical piece with similar notation to the first system, including notes, rests, and slurs. The watermark 'www.Perusal.co.uk' is visible in the background.

*♩=69*

The third system of the handwritten musical score consists of four staves. It continues the musical piece with similar notation to the first system, including notes, rests, and slurs. The watermark 'www.Perusal.co.uk' is visible in the background.

Handwritten musical score for Violin 2 (VN2), Viola (VLA), and Violoncello (VC). The score includes tempo markings:  $\text{♩} = 69$ ,  $\text{♩} = 80$ , and  $\text{♩} = 76$ . The VC part is marked *détaché*.

Handwritten musical score for Violin 1 (VN1), Violin 2 (VN2), and Violoncello (VC). The score includes tempo markings:  $\text{♩} = 76$ ,  $\text{♩} = 66$ ,  $\text{♩} = 80$ , and  $\text{♩} = 72$ .

VN1  $\text{♩} = 76$

VN1  $\text{♩} = 66$   $\text{♩} = 69$

VN2  $\text{♩} = 76$

VLA  $\text{♩} = 66$

VC  $\text{♩} = 66$

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www.uymp.co.uk  
for performance

VN1  $\text{♩} = 69$

VN2  $\text{♩} = 76$

VN2  $\text{♩} = 80$

VLA  $\text{♩} = 69$

VN2  $\text{♩} = 72$

VN1  $\text{♩} = 66$  with via

VLA  $\text{♩} = 66$  with vn1

(♩=66) with Vla

VN1

(♩=72)

VN2

(♩=66) with Vln1

VLA

VN2

♩=80

VC

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VN1

♩=63

VN1

♩=63

VN2

♩=80

VN2

♩=63

VN2

♩=63

VLA

♩=76

VC

Handwritten musical notation for Violin I (VNI) and Violin II (VNI) parts. The tempo is marked as  $\text{♩} = 63$ . The VNI part starts with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The VNI part starts with a bass clef and a key signature of one flat. Both parts feature a melodic line with some chromaticism and a steady eighth-note accompaniment.

Handwritten musical notation for Violin I (VNI) part. The tempo is marked as  $\text{♩} = 63$ . The part continues the melodic line from the previous section.

Handwritten musical notation for Viola (VLA) part. The tempo is marked as  $\text{♩} = 60$ . The part is marked *flautando* and features a melodic line with some chromaticism.

Vc

Begin to use DO as well as G.

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Handwritten musical notation for Violin I (VNI), Violin II (VNI), and Viola (VLA) parts. The tempo is marked as  $\text{♩} = 60$ . The VNI part is marked *flautando*. The VNI part features a melodic line with some chromaticism and a steady eighth-note accompaniment. The VNI part features a melodic line with some chromaticism and a steady eighth-note accompaniment. The VLA part features a melodic line with some chromaticism and a steady eighth-note accompaniment.

Vc

VN1  $\text{♩} = 60$

VN1  $\text{♩} = 72$

VN1  $\text{♩} = 60$

VN2  $\text{♩} = 60$

VLA  $\text{♩} = 60$

VC

====

====

VN1  $\text{♩} = 60$

VLA  $\text{♩} = 60$

VC

-----

Handwritten musical score for Violin 1 (V1), Violin 2 (V2), Viola (VLA), and Violoncello (Vc). The tempo is marked *molto ritmico* with a metronome marking of  $\text{♩} = 60$ . The score consists of four staves with rhythmic notation.

Handwritten musical score for Violin 1 (V1), Violin 2 (V2), Viola (VLA), and Violoncello (Vc). The tempo is marked *molto flautando* with a metronome marking of  $\text{♩} = 63$ . The score consists of four staves with rhythmic notation.

Handwritten musical score for three string parts: Violin 1 (VN1), Violin 2 (VN2), and Viola (VLA). The tempo is marked as  $\text{♩} = 63$ . The score consists of seven measures. The first measure has a fermata over the first beat. The parts feature various rhythmic patterns, including eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests.

Handwritten musical score for three string parts: Violin 1 (VN1), Violin 2 (VN2), and Viola (VLA). The tempo is marked as  $\text{♩} = 63$ . The score consists of four measures. The parts feature various rhythmic patterns, including eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests.