

# How long is a pice of string?

- another unanswered question

Tomas Friberg (2013)

**Ensemble**

4 Flutes (no. 4 with B foot - or Alto flute)

Trumpet in C (or Bb)

Vibraphone - bowed (or Piano - sul tast.)

Percussion: 1 large gong ( or Tam-Tam)

String quartet

or

String orchestra (notes within brackets are intended for string orchestra version only)

Durata: About 8 minutes

Score in C

# How long is a piece of string?

Dedicated to Johanna

Tomas Friberg (2013)

Lento

The musical score is written for a full orchestra and includes the following parts:

- Flute 1: Enters in the final measure with a triplet of eighth notes, marked *pp*.
- Flute 2: Enters in the second measure with a triplet of eighth notes, marked *ppp*. Re-enters in the final measure with a triplet, marked *pp*.
- Flute 3: Enters in the second measure with a triplet of eighth notes, marked *ppp*. Re-enters in the final measure with a triplet, marked *pp*.
- Flute 4: Enters in the final measure with a triplet of eighth notes, marked *pp*.
- Trumpet: Remains silent throughout the piece.
- Vibraphone (2 bows): Plays a melodic line of sustained notes with long bows, marked *p*, *p*, *pp*, and *p*.
- Percussion: Plays a rhythmic pattern of sustained notes, marked *p*.
- Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Cello, and D.B. (ad lib): All parts are silent throughout the piece.

12

Fl. 1 *pp*

Fl. 2 *pp*

Fl. 3

Fl. 4 *pp*

Tpt. *pp espress.*

Vib. *mp* *mp* *ppp*

Perc. *mf* *mp* *pp* *ppp*

Vln. 1 *f* *mf* *pp* arco *v*

Vln. 2 *f* *mf*

Vla. *f* *mf*

Vlc. *f* *mf* arco *v* *pp*

D.B. 12

Detailed description: This page of a musical score, numbered 4, contains staves for various instruments. The top section includes four Flute parts (Fl. 1-4) and a Trumpet part (Tpt.), all starting at measure 12. The Flute parts feature complex rhythmic patterns with triplets and dynamic markings of *pp*. The Trumpet part has a melodic line with triplets and a dynamic marking of *pp espress.*. Below these are the Vibraphone (Vib.) and Percussion (Perc.) parts. The Vibraphone part has a melodic line with dynamic markings of *mp*, *mp*, and *ppp*. The Percussion part has a rhythmic pattern with dynamic markings of *mf*, *mp*, *pp*, and *ppp*. The bottom section includes Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vlc.), and Double Bass (D.B.). The Violin and Viola parts have a rhythmic pattern with dynamic markings of *f* and *mf*. The Violoncello part has a rhythmic pattern with dynamic markings of *f* and *mf*. The Double Bass part is mostly silent. The score is written in 2/4 time, with various time signature changes throughout the measures.

This musical score page covers measures 22 through 31. The instrumentation includes Flutes 1, 2, 3, and 4; Trumpet; Vibraphone; Percussion; Violin 1; Violin 2; Viola; Violoncello; and Double Bass. The score is written for measures 22-31, with measure numbers indicated at the beginning of each staff.

Key musical features and dynamics include:

- Flutes 1-4:** Remain silent throughout the measures.
- Trumpet:** Remains silent throughout the measures.
- Vibraphone:** Remains silent throughout the measures.
- Percussion:** Features a single rhythmic hit in measure 22, indicated by a triangle symbol.
- Violin 1:**
  - Measures 22-24: Active melodic line with triplets and slurs.
  - Measure 25: Rest.
  - Measures 26-28: Active melodic line with slurs.
  - Measures 29-31: Rest.
- Violin 2:**
  - Measures 22-24: Active melodic line with slurs.
  - Measures 25-26: Rest.
  - Measures 27-28: Active melodic line with slurs.
  - Measures 29-31: Active melodic line with triplets and slurs.
- Viola:**
  - Measures 22-24: Active melodic line with slurs.
  - Measures 25-26: Rest.
  - Measures 27-28: Active melodic line with slurs.
  - Measures 29-31: Active melodic line with slurs.
- Violoncello:**
  - Measures 22-24: Active melodic line with triplets and slurs.
  - Measures 25-26: Rest.
  - Measures 27-28: Active melodic line with slurs.
  - Measures 29-31: Active melodic line with triplets and slurs.
- Double Bass:**
  - Measures 22-24: Rest.
  - Measures 25-26: Rest.
  - Measures 27-28: Active melodic line with slurs.
  - Measures 29-31: Active melodic line with triplets and slurs.

Dynamics and performance markings include *pp* (pianissimo), *p* (piano), *mp* (mezzo-piano), and *mf* (mezzo-forte). Performance techniques such as *arco* (arco) and *V* (bow) are also present.

This musical score page covers measures 34 through 41. It features the following parts and markings:

- Fl. 1:** Starts with a rest in 5/4 and 4/4. In 3/4, it plays a triplet of eighth notes marked *mf*. In 4/4, it plays a triplet of eighth notes marked *p*. In 3/4, it plays a triplet of eighth notes marked *mf*. In 4/4, it plays a triplet of eighth notes marked *p*.
- Fl. 2:** Starts with a rest in 5/4 and 4/4. In 3/4, it plays a triplet of eighth notes marked *mf*. In 4/4, it plays a triplet of eighth notes marked *p*.
- Fl. 3:** Starts with a rest in 5/4 and 4/4. In 3/4, it plays a triplet of eighth notes marked *mp*. In 4/4, it plays a triplet of eighth notes marked *p*.
- Fl. 4:** Starts with a rest in 5/4 and 4/4. In 3/4, it plays a triplet of eighth notes marked *p*. In 4/4, it plays a triplet of eighth notes marked *p*.
- Tpt.:** Starts with a rest in 5/4 and 4/4. In 3/4, it plays a triplet of eighth notes marked *p espress.*. In 4/4, it plays a triplet of eighth notes marked *p*.
- Vib.:** Starts with a rest in 5/4 and 4/4. In 3/4, it plays a triplet of eighth notes marked *mf*. In 4/4, it plays a triplet of eighth notes marked *mf*.
- Perc.:** Starts with a rest in 5/4 and 4/4. In 3/4, it plays a triplet of eighth notes marked *mf*. In 4/4, it plays a triplet of eighth notes marked *mf*.
- Vln. 1:** Starts with a rest in 5/4 and 4/4. In 3/4, it plays a triplet of eighth notes marked *f*. In 4/4, it plays a triplet of eighth notes marked *f*. In 3/4, it plays a triplet of eighth notes marked *f*. In 4/4, it plays a triplet of eighth notes marked *f*. In 5/4, it plays a triplet of eighth notes marked *f* and *pizz.*. In 4/4, it plays a triplet of eighth notes marked *f*.
- Vln. 2:** Starts with a rest in 5/4 and 4/4. In 3/4, it plays a triplet of eighth notes marked *f*. In 4/4, it plays a triplet of eighth notes marked *f*. In 3/4, it plays a triplet of eighth notes marked *f*. In 4/4, it plays a triplet of eighth notes marked *f*. In 5/4, it plays a triplet of eighth notes marked *f* and *pizz.*. In 4/4, it plays a triplet of eighth notes marked *f*.
- Vla.:** Starts with a rest in 5/4 and 4/4. In 3/4, it plays a triplet of eighth notes marked *f*. In 4/4, it plays a triplet of eighth notes marked *f*. In 3/4, it plays a triplet of eighth notes marked *f*. In 4/4, it plays a triplet of eighth notes marked *f*. In 5/4, it plays a triplet of eighth notes marked *f* and *pizz.*. In 4/4, it plays a triplet of eighth notes marked *f*.
- Vlc.:** Starts with a rest in 5/4 and 4/4. In 3/4, it plays a triplet of eighth notes marked *f*. In 4/4, it plays a triplet of eighth notes marked *f*. In 3/4, it plays a triplet of eighth notes marked *f*. In 4/4, it plays a triplet of eighth notes marked *f*. In 5/4, it plays a triplet of eighth notes marked *f* and *pizz.*. In 4/4, it plays a triplet of eighth notes marked *f*.
- D.B.:** Starts with a rest in 5/4 and 4/4. In 3/4, it plays a triplet of eighth notes marked *f*. In 4/4, it plays a triplet of eighth notes marked *f*. In 3/4, it plays a triplet of eighth notes marked *f*. In 4/4, it plays a triplet of eighth notes marked *f*. In 5/4, it plays a triplet of eighth notes marked *f* and *pizz.*. In 4/4, it plays a triplet of eighth notes marked *f*.

*pppp*

43

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Fl. 3

Fl. 4

*pppp*

*pppp*

*pppp*

*pppp*

*ppp*

*ppp*

*ppp*

*ppp*

Tpt.

*mp* *espress.*

Vib.

*mp*

*p*

Perc.

*mf*

Vln. 1

*mp*

*arco*

Vln. 2

*p*

*mp*

*arco*

Vla.

*p*

*mp*

*arco*

Vlc.

*p*

*mp*

D.B.

*p*

This musical score page, numbered 8, features ten staves for various instruments. The top four staves are for Flutes 1, 2, 3, and 4, each playing a melodic line with frequent triplet patterns. The fifth staff is for the Trumpet, which has a more sparse melodic line. The sixth staff is for the Vibraphone, featuring a rhythmic accompaniment with dynamic markings of *p*, *pp*, and *p*. The seventh staff is for Percussion, providing a steady rhythmic pulse. The bottom four staves are for the string section: Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, and Violoncello. The Violin 1 part includes a solo section marked *(solo)* and *mf*. The Viola and Violoncello parts also feature triplet patterns and dynamic markings like *mp* and *p*. The Double Bass part is mostly silent, with a few notes at the end. The score is written in a key with one sharp (F#) and uses a variety of time signatures including 3/4, 4/4, and 2/4. The overall texture is a blend of melodic lines and rhythmic accompaniment.



61

Fl. 1 *mf*

Fl. 2 *mf*

Fl. 3 *mf*

Fl. 4 *mf*

Tpt. *mf espress.*

Vib. *mp*, *mf*, *pp*

Perc. *mf*

Vln. 1 (gli altri) *ppp*

Vln. 2 *ppp*

Vla. *ppp*

Vlc. *ppp*

D.B. *ppp*

*pp dolce*

*p*

*pp dolce*

*p*

*pp dolce*

*p*

*p espress.*

3

3

3

3

3

3

3

3

3

3

72

Fl. 1 *mp* 5 3 3

Fl. 2 *mp*

Fl. 3 *pp* *mp* 3 3

Fl. 4 *ppp*

Tpt.

Vib. *p*

Perc. *p*

Vln. 1 (solo) *p espress.* V

Vln. 2

Vla. (solo) *p espress.* V

Vlc. (solo) *p espress.* V

D.B.

*rit.*

83

Fl. 1 *pp* *dim.*

Fl. 2 *pp* *dim.*

Fl. 3 *pp* *dim.*

Fl. 4 *pp* *dim.*

Tpt. *mf espress.* *dim.*

Vib. *mf* *mf* *mp* *p* *morendo*

Perc. *mf* *mf* *mp* *p*

Vln. 1 (tutti) *mf* *p*

Vln. 2 *mf* *p*

Vla. (tutti) *mf* *p*

Vlc. (tutti) *mf* *p*

D.B. *arco* *mf* *p*