

ROBERT DAVIDSON

# MESSAGE GROUND

canon for two violins (or violin & delay) with looped ground bass

# Performance instructions

*Message Ground* is a canon for two violins. The second player starts when first player has reached bar 3). The piece may also be performed by a soloist using either digital delay or a prerecorded second part.

A repeated figure is heard as accompaniment throughout - it may be played on piano, guitar, cello, synthesiser or any other instrument or recording (though octave transposition upward should be avoided). One interesting possibility is for one of the violinists to generate the riff using an octave displacement effect and then loop it throughout the piece. When performed live, the accompaniment should vary dynamics, articulation and colour to suit the violin part.

Improvised additions are encouraged.

## Program note

*Message Ground* borrows techniques popular in 17th century music, such as taking an existing passage and spinning variations upon it, repeating a bass line as a "ground" to build structures over, and exploring a range of textures in the process. Departing from a song popular in my youth, the piece explores diverse settings in a gradually shifting musical landscape, ever bound by the repeated bass line - busily going about going nowhere.

Violin

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$\text{♩} = 152$  Ground bass (loop throughout performance, live or recorded)

Ground bass musical notation in bass clef, 4/4 time, key of D major. It consists of a single melodic line with a repeat sign at the end.

Energetic  $\text{♩} = 152$

1

2

Musical notation for measures 1-6 in treble clef, 4/4 time, key of D major. Measure 1 has a fermata. Measure 2 starts with *mf* and has dynamic markings < > < > < > < >. Measure 3 has < > < > < > < >. Measure 4 has < > < > < > < >. Measure 5 has < > < > < > < >. Measure 6 has < > < > < > < >.

Musical notation for measures 7-10 in treble clef, 4/4 time, key of D major. Each measure has dynamic markings < > < > < > < >.

Musical notation for measures 11-14 in treble clef, 4/4 time, key of D major. Measures 11-14 are marked with *fp*.

Musical notation for measures 15-20 in treble clef, 4/4 time, key of D major. Measures 15-16 have *gliss* markings. Measures 17-20 have accents (>).

Musical notation for measures 21-24 in treble clef, 4/4 time, key of D major. Measures 21-24 have accents (>).

Musical notation for measures 25-27 in treble clef, 4/4 time, key of D major. Measures 25-27 have accents (>).

Musical notation for measures 28-30 in treble clef, 4/4 time, key of D major. Measures 28-30 have accents (>).

Musical notation for measures 31-34 in treble clef, 4/4 time, key of D major. Measures 31-33 have *gliss* markings. Measure 34 has a fermata and *ff* marking.

37 *con brio*

40

43

46

51 **2**

62 *martellato* **ff**

70

75

80 *mf*

84

88 *con brio*  
*fp*  $\longleftarrow$  *f* *fp*  $\longleftarrow$

92  
*fp*  $\longleftarrow$  *f* *fp*  $\longleftarrow$  *fp*  $\longleftarrow$  *f* *fp*  $\longleftarrow$  *fp*  $\longleftarrow$

95  
*f* *fp*  $\longleftarrow$  *fp*  $\longleftarrow$  *f* *fp*  $\longleftarrow$  *fp*  $\longleftarrow$  *f* *fp*  $\longleftarrow$

98  
*fp*  $\longleftarrow$  *f* *fp*  $\longleftarrow$  *fp*  $\longleftarrow$  *f* *fp*  $\longleftarrow$

101  
*fp*  $\longleftarrow$  *f* *fp*  $\longleftarrow$  *f* *fp*  $\longleftarrow$  *f*

103  
*fp*  $\longleftarrow$  *f* *fp*  $\longleftarrow$  *f* *fp*  $\longleftarrow$

105  
*f* *fp*  $\longleftarrow$  *f* *fp*  $\longleftarrow$  *f*  $\overbrace{\hspace{2cm}}^2$

109 rhythmically incisive

121 legato

