

Trefoil

For String Trio

2011

Lawrence Kramer

In nature a trefoil is a three-leafed clover. In architecture it is an ornament in the shape of three overlapping leaves. In mathematics it is the first "nontrivial" knot, meaning that a knot tied in the trefoil shape cannot be untied without cutting it. The title of this composition refers first of all to the texture of three distinct, often exposed, instrumental voices. But it refers even more to the knot metaphorically tied by the music. The work is based on the separate elaboration of two very different ideas, ideas so different that each can be imagined as continuing silently while the other sounds. Yet the ideas are somehow so closely intertwined that one they could not be untied without cutting them. This is not to say that they have some sort of "organic" relationship; they don't, and that is the point. Their intimacy is formed by the way they address and interrogate, yield to and overtake each other, as if each were always aware of the other as an alter ego. The same relationship obtains between the main body of the work and the strange, floating, seemingly unfinished Prelude that introduces it--the third leaf in the large trefoil of the work.

Duration: 14 minutes.

Trefoil: Prelude

Grave

♩ = 56

Lawrence Kramer

Violin

Viola

Cello

p

p

p

Vln.

Vla.

Vlc.

pp

pizz. arco

pizz. arco

pp

pp

Vln.

Vla.

Vlc.

ppp

ppp

ppp

p

p

pp

pp

pp

Prelude

4

16

Vln. *p*

Vla. *p*

Vlc. *p*

19

Vln. *p*

Vla. *p*

Vlc. *p*

22

Vln. *p*

Vla. *p*

Vlc. *p*

Prelude

25

Vln.

Vla.

Vlc.

3

pp

pp

pp

Detailed description: This system covers measures 25 to 27. The Violin part (Vln.) begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. It features a melodic line with slurs and a triplet of eighth notes in measure 26. The Viola (Vla.) and Violoncello (Vlc.) parts are in bass clef and provide harmonic support with chords and moving lines. Dynamic markings include *pp* (pianissimo) for the Violin and Viola, and *pp* for the Violoncello.

28

Vln.

Vla.

Vlc.

Detailed description: This system covers measures 28 to 32. The Violin part (Vln.) continues with a melodic line, featuring slurs and a fermata in measure 30. The Viola (Vla.) and Violoncello (Vlc.) parts continue their harmonic accompaniment. The key signature remains one flat.

33

Vln.

Vla.

Vlc.

p

pp

Detailed description: This system covers measures 33 to 35. The Violin part (Vln.) has a more active melodic line with slurs. The Viola (Vla.) and Violoncello (Vlc.) parts continue with their accompaniment. Dynamic markings include *p* (piano) for the Violoncello and *pp* (pianissimo) for the Viola in the final measure.

Prelude

6

36

Vln.

Vla.

Vlc.

dim.

dim.

dim.

The image shows a musical score for three string instruments: Violin (Vln.), Viola (Vla.), and Violoncello (Vlc.). The score is for measures 36 through 40. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. Measure 36: Vln. has a whole note chord (F#4, A4); Vla. has a quarter note (F#3) and a quarter note (A3); Vlc. has a quarter note (F#2) and a quarter note (A2). Measure 37: Vln. has a quarter note (F#4), a quarter note (A4), and a quarter note (B4); Vla. has a quarter note (F#3), a quarter note (A3), and a quarter note (B3); Vlc. has a quarter note (F#2), a quarter note (A2), and a quarter note (B2). Measure 38: Vln. has a whole note chord (F#4, A4); Vla. has a quarter note (F#3), a quarter note (A3), and a quarter note (B3); Vlc. has a quarter note (F#2), a quarter note (A2), and a quarter note (B2). Measure 39: Vln. has a whole note chord (F#4, A4) with a *dim.* marking; Vla. has a quarter note (F#3), a quarter note (A3), and a quarter note (B3) with a *dim.* marking; Vlc. has a quarter note (F#2), a quarter note (A2), and a quarter note (B2) with a *dim.* marking. Measure 40: Vln. has a whole note chord (F#4, A4); Vla. has a quarter note (F#3), a quarter note (A3), and a quarter note (B3); Vlc. has a quarter note (F#2), a quarter note (A2), and a quarter note (B2). The score ends with a fermata over the final notes in measure 40.

Trefoil

41 $\text{♩} = 40$

Violin

Con sord.

Viola

pp

Cello

46 $\text{♩} = 92$

Vln.

pp

Senza sord.

Vla.

Vlc.

48

Vln.

Vla.

Vlc.

pp

Trefoil

8

50

Vln. *cresc.* *p*

Vla. *cresc.* *p*

Vlc. *cresc.* *p*

52

Vln. *cresc.*

Vla. *cresc.*

Vlc. *cresc.*

54

Vln. *f* *pizz.* *arco*

Vla. *f*

Vlc. *f*

56

Vln. *p* *cresc.* *f*

Vla. *p* *cresc.* *f*

Vlc. *p* *cresc.* *f*

58

Vln. *mp* *cresc.* *f* ♩ = 84

Vla. *mp* *pizz.* *cresc.* *f*

Vlc. *mp* *mf* *cresc.* *f*

61

Vln. *p*

Vla. *arco* *p*

Vlc. *p*

Trefoil

10

64

Vln. Vla. Vlc.

3

3

3

Detailed description: This system contains measures 64, 65, and 66. The Violin (Vln.) part starts with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). It features a melodic line with eighth-note patterns, including a triplet of eighth notes in measure 65 and another triplet in measure 66. The Viola (Vla.) part is in the alto clef and plays a simple harmonic accompaniment of quarter notes. The Violoncello (Vlc.) part is in the bass clef and plays a rhythmic accompaniment of quarter notes with some rests. Dynamics are not explicitly marked in this system.

67

Vln. Vla. Vlc.

f 3 3

f 3 3

f

Detailed description: This system contains measures 67, 68, 69, and 70. The Violin (Vln.) part continues with eighth-note patterns, featuring a triplet of eighth notes in measure 68 and another triplet in measure 69. The Viola (Vla.) part plays quarter notes, with triplets of eighth notes in measures 69 and 70. The Violoncello (Vlc.) part plays quarter notes. Dynamics include a forte (*f*) marking in measure 68 for the Violin and Viola, and another *f* marking in measure 68 for the Violoncello.

71

Vln. Vla. Vlc.

p *cresc.*

p *cresc.*

p *cresc.*

3

Detailed description: This system contains measures 71, 72, 73, and 74. The Violin (Vln.) part features a melodic line with eighth notes and a triplet of eighth notes in measure 73. The Viola (Vla.) part plays quarter notes, with a triplet of eighth notes in measure 73. The Violoncello (Vlc.) part plays eighth notes with a triplet of eighth notes in measure 73. Dynamics include a piano (*p*) marking in measure 71 for all three instruments, and a crescendo (*cresc.*) marking in measure 72 for all three instruments.

73 $\text{♩} = 40$

Vln. *f* *pp*

Vla. *f* *pp*

Vlc. *f*

Detailed description: This system covers measures 73 to 76. The tempo is marked as quarter note = 40. The Violin part (Vln.) starts with a forte (*f*) dynamic and a series of eighth notes with accents, then transitions to a piano (*pp*) dynamic with a half note. The Viola part (Vla.) plays a continuous eighth-note pattern with a forte (*f*) dynamic, then rests for two measures before a piano (*pp*) dynamic. The Violoncello part (Vlc.) also plays a continuous eighth-note pattern with a forte (*f*) dynamic.

77 $\text{♩} = 84$

Vln. *mf*

Vla. *mf*

Vlc. *mf*

Detailed description: This system covers measures 77 to 82. The tempo is marked as quarter note = 84. The Violin part (Vln.) has a half rest in measure 77, followed by a half note in measure 78, and then a series of eighth notes in measures 79-82, with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The Viola part (Vla.) plays a series of eighth notes in measures 77-82, with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The Violoncello part (Vlc.) has a half rest in measures 77-81 and then plays a half note in measure 82, with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic.

83 $\text{♩} = 92$

Vln. *f*

Vla. *f*

Vlc. *f*

Detailed description: This system covers measures 83 to 86. The tempo is marked as quarter note = 92. The Violin part (Vln.) has a half note in measure 83, followed by a triplet of eighth notes in measure 84, and then a triplet of eighth notes in measure 85. The Viola part (Vla.) plays a continuous eighth-note pattern with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The Violoncello part (Vlc.) has a half note in measure 83, followed by a continuous eighth-note pattern with a forte (*f*) dynamic.

Trefoil

12

85

Vln. *p* *f* *mp* *cresc.*

Vla. *mp* *cresc.*

Vlc. *p* *f* *mp* *cresc.*

Measures 85 and 86. Violin I and Violin II parts feature a melodic line with dynamics *p*, *f*, *mp*, and *cresc.*. Violoncello also follows this dynamic progression. Viola part includes a triplet of eighth notes in measure 85 and *mp* dynamics in measure 86.

87

Vln. *f*

Vla. *f*

Vlc. *f*

Measures 87 and 88. All three parts (Violin I, Viola, and Violoncello) play a melodic line with a dynamic of *f*. Measure 88 ends with a fermata on a whole note in the Violin I part.

89

Vln.

Vla. *pizz.*

Vlc.

Measures 89, 90, and 91. Violin I part has a whole note in measure 89 and quarter notes in 90 and 91. Viola part features a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with a *pizz.* marking in measure 90. Violoncello part has a whole note in measure 89 and quarter notes in 90 and 91.

92 *rit.* *a tempo*

Vln. *arco*

Vla.

Vlc.

95

Vln. *p* *f* *p* *f* *p*

Vla. *p* *f* *p* *f* *p*

Vlc. *p* *f* *p* *f* *p*

100

Vln. *pp*

Vla.

Vlc. *pp*

Trefoil

14

102

Vln. *p*

Vla. *p*

Vlc. *p*

Violin I: Treble clef, starting with a half note G4. Measure 103 has a quarter note G4 and a quarter note A4 with a sharp sign.

Viola: Bass clef, starting with a half note F3. Measure 103 has a sixteenth-note triplet of G3, A3, B3, followed by a quarter note C4.

Violoncello: Bass clef, starting with a half note G2. Measure 103 has a sixteenth-note triplet of G2, A2, B2, followed by a quarter note C3.

104

Vln. *cresc.*

Vla. *cresc.*

Vlc. *cresc.*

Violin I: Treble clef, starting with a half note G4. Measure 105 has a quarter note G4 and a quarter note A4 with a sharp sign.

Viola: Bass clef, starting with a half note F3. Measure 105 has a sixteenth-note triplet of G3, A3, B3, followed by a quarter note C4.

Violoncello: Bass clef, starting with a half note G2. Measure 105 has a quarter note G2 and a quarter note F2.

106

$\text{♩} = 40$

Con sord.

Vln. *f*

Vla. *f*

Vlc. *f*

Con sord. *pp*

sul tasto *pp*

Violin I: Treble clef, starting with a half note G4. Measure 107 has a quarter note G4 and a quarter note A4 with a sharp sign. Measure 108 has a quarter note G4 and a quarter note F4 with a flat sign.

Viola: Bass clef, starting with a half note F3. Measure 107 has a quarter note G3 and a quarter note F3. Measure 108 has a quarter note G3 and a quarter note F3.

Violoncello: Bass clef, starting with a half note G2. Measure 107 has a sixteenth-note triplet of G2, A2, B2, followed by a quarter note C3. Measure 108 has a quarter note G2 and a quarter note F2.

110 Senza sord.

Vln.

Vla.

Vlc.

p

114

Vln.

Vla.

Vlc.

pp

pp sul tasto

pizz.

arco

120

Vln.

Vla.

Vlc.

f

f meno

f meno

♩ = 92

sul pont.

ordin.

pizz.

Trefoil

16

Senza sord.

124

Vln.

Vla.

Vlc.

arco

f

3

126

Vln.

Vla.

Vlc.

128

Vln.

Vla.

Vlc.

3

3

130

Vln. Vla. Vlc.

This system contains measures 130 through 133. The Violin (Vln.) part features a melodic line with triplets and accents. The Viola (Vla.) part provides harmonic support with triplets. The Violoncello (Vlc.) part has a steady bass line with some chromatic movement.

134

Vln. Vla. Vlc.

This system contains measures 134 through 137. The Violin (Vln.) part continues with triplets and accents. The Viola (Vla.) part includes a *cresc.* marking. The Violoncello (Vlc.) part also includes a *cresc.* marking. The key signature changes to one flat in measure 137.

138

Vln. Vla. Vlc.

This system contains measures 138 through 141. The Violin (Vln.) part features triplets and a *pizz.* marking. The Viola (Vla.) part has a *pizz.* marking and a double bar line. The Violoncello (Vlc.) part has a *pizz.* marking and a double bar line.

Trefoil

18

142 $\text{♩} = 84$ *rit.* $\text{♩} = 40$

Vln. *ppp* *pp*

Vla. arco *pp*

Vlc. *pp*

148 *sul tasto* $\text{♩} = 60$ ordin. *rit.*

Vln. *p* ordin.

Vla. *sul tasto* *p* ordin.

Vlc. *sul tasto* ordin. *p* *fp*

153 $\text{♩} = 40$ *sul tasto* $\text{♩} = 60$ ordin.

Vln. *pp* *ppp* *p*

Vla. *sul tasto* *ppp* ordin. *p*

Vlc. *sul tasto* *ppp* ordin. *p*

169 *rit.*

Vln.

Vla.

Vlc.

171 ♩ = 40

Vln.

Vla.

Vlc.

pp

pp

pp