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Music for electric guitar and string quartet in three movements

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**MUSIC FOR ELECTRIC GUITAR AND STRING QUARTET IN THREE
MOVEMENTS**

**A Thesis
Presented to
The Faculty of the School of Music
San Jose State University**

**In Partial Fulfillment
of the Requirements for the Degree
Master of Arts**

**by
G. Rusty Davidson
August 1995**

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ABSTRACT

MUSIC FOR ELECTRIC GUITAR AND STRING QUARTET

by G. Rusty Davidson

This thesis combines the amplified sound of the electric guitar with the acoustic sound of the string quartet. Whereas the electric guitar was only invented in the 1940's, the string quartet dates back to the mid-eighteenth century. However, research underlying the project shows that innovation has always characterized the string quartet tradition. Therefore, this thesis blends old and new with due respect for the continuum of Western music.

The twenty minute work consists of three distinct movements with differing tempos, meters, forms, and motives. Free tonal association and extensive use of syncopation propel heterophonic linear counterpoint. Expression is enhanced by phrase-specific articulations, contrasting dynamics, and use of extreme ranges. No extended techniques are utilized, but instrumental virtuosity is required.

To accurately perform the work, the guitarist will need a solid-body electric guitar with a pitch bender, an electrified nylon string guitar, an electronic sustain pedal, and a high-quality amplifier.

Movement 1

1 **A** ♩ = 120

Guitar

Violin 1

Violin 2

Viola

Cello

5

9 **B**

non-legato

non-legato

non-legato

non-legato

non-legato

loco

loco

pizz.

13

f

mf

17

C non legato
accel.

p

mp

mf

acc.

poco

21

mf

f

acc.

poco

25 D tempo primo

f *mf*

ff *mf*

ff *mf*

ff *mf*

f *mf*

29

32

f *p* *mf* *mp* *mf* *f* *f*

34

ff

f

mp

7

7

7

7

36

mf

f

mp

mf

mp

7

E

14

*To: Electrified Nylon String Guitar

p

p

p

mp

p

7

7

61

mf f mp mf slide mf mp

arco . mp

pizz mp

mp p mp

pizz mp

mp p mp

always legato mp

65

mf *f* *mp* *p* *mf* *mp*

p *mp*

mp *p* *mp*

always legato

The image shows a musical score for the song "The Rose Tree". The score is written for a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line is in the treble clef, and the piano accompaniment is in the bass clef. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The score is divided into two systems. The first system contains measures 69 through 74. The second system contains measures 75 through 80. The vocal line begins with a melodic phrase in measure 69, marked with a forte (f) dynamic. The piano accompaniment provides a harmonic foundation with chords and moving lines. The score concludes with a final chord in measure 80.

73 *mp* *mf* *accel.* *poco*

77 *a* *poco* *a tempo* *f*

Guitar

81 *mp*

85 *p* *mf*

89 *f* *mf* **H**

93 *f* *mp*

97 *f* *mf* *mp* *f* *accel.*

101 *a tempo* *accel.* *a tempo* *accel.* *rit. poco a poco*
mf *f* *mp* *f* *mf*

105 *a tempo* *accel.* *a tempo* *rit. poco a poco*
f *mf*

109 *a tempo* *accel.* *a tempo*
mf *mp* *mf* *f* *mf*

113 *accel.* *a tempo* *accel.* *a tempo* *accel.* *a tempo*
mp *mf* *mp* *mf* *p* *f*

117 *mp* *f* *mp* *f* *mp* *p* *f* *p*

121 *a tempo* *mf* *f* *ff* *f* *1*

Violin 1 *p* *mf*

Violin 2 *p* *mf*

Viola *p* *mf*

Cello

125

mf *mp* *f* *mf* *f*

DIZZ *ARCO*

mf *mf*

129

mp *mf* *mf* *mp* *mf*

slide

mf *mp* *mf*

133

f *mp* *p* *mf* *p*

p *p*

Movement 2

A $\text{♩} = 66$ $\text{♩} = 132$ *poco accel*

Guitar *f* *mf* *f* *mp* *poco accel*

Violin 1 *f* *mf* *f* *mp* *poco accel*

Violin 2 *f* *mf* *f* *mp* *poco accel*

Viola *f* *mf* *f* *mp* *pizz. poco accel*

Cello *f* *mf* *f* *mp* *poco accel*

off the string

guitar-like pizz. *mf*

off the string

guitar-like pizz. *mf*

guitar-like pizz. *mf*

legato *f* *mf*

3

3

3

3

B ♩ = 88

arco

mp

mf

mf

♩ = 120

f

f

mf

f

mf

mf

f

f

mf

This musical score consists of three systems, each with five staves. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is 6/8. The first system (measures 29-32) features a guitar part with triplets and a forte (*f*) dynamic, and string parts with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The second system (measures 33-36) includes a guitar part with a *mf* dynamic, a string part with an *mp* dynamic, and a section labeled "off the string" for the guitar. A rehearsal mark "C" is placed above the guitar staff in measure 34. The third system (measures 37-40) continues the guitar part with triplets and a *mf* dynamic, while the string parts remain silent.

37

38

39

40

f

mf

mp

mf

mp

41

42

43

44

mp

mf

mf

45

D

pitch waver

46

47

48

mf

cresc

mf

cresc

mf

cresc

mf

cresc

cresc

49 *poco*

53 *poco* **ff**

57 **E** $\text{♩} = 88$ *mp* *p*

Musical score for a piano piece, measures 65-80. The score is in 3/4 time with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). It features four staves: Treble, Violin, Viola, and Bass.

Measures 65-70: The Treble staff begins with a half note G (marked with a box 'G') and a half note F#. The Violin staff has a half note G. The Viola staff has a half note G. The Bass staff has a half note G. Dynamics include *p* (piano) and *mf* (mezzo-forte).

Measures 71-76: The Treble staff continues with a half note E and a half note D. The Violin staff has a half note E. The Viola staff has a half note E. The Bass staff has a half note E. Dynamics include *mp* (mezzo-piano) and *mf*.

Measures 77-80: The Treble staff continues with a half note C# and a half note B. The Violin staff has a half note C#. The Viola staff has a half note C#. The Bass staff has a half note C#. Dynamics include *mf* and *f* (forte).

The score includes various musical notations such as triplets, accents, and dynamic markings. A double bar line with repeat dots is present after measure 70.

First system of a musical score. It consists of five staves. The top staff has a treble clef and a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The second staff has a treble clef and a key signature of three sharps. The third staff has a treble clef and a key signature of three sharps. The fourth staff has a bass clef and a key signature of three sharps. The fifth staff has a bass clef and a key signature of three sharps. The tempo is marked as $\text{♩} = 120$. There is a dynamic marking *f* (forte) and a rehearsal mark **H**. The system includes various musical notations such as triplets, slurs, and ties.

Second system of the musical score. It consists of five staves. The top staff has a treble clef and a key signature of three sharps. The second staff has a treble clef and a key signature of three sharps. The third staff has a treble clef and a key signature of three sharps. The fourth staff has a bass clef and a key signature of three sharps. The fifth staff has a bass clef and a key signature of three sharps. The system includes various musical notations such as triplets, slurs, and ties. There is a dynamic marking *mf* (mezzo-forte).

Third system of the musical score. It consists of five staves. The top staff has a treble clef and a key signature of three sharps. The second staff has a treble clef and a key signature of three sharps. The third staff has a treble clef and a key signature of three sharps. The fourth staff has a bass clef and a key signature of three sharps. The fifth staff has a bass clef and a key signature of three sharps. The system includes various musical notations such as triplets, slurs, and ties. There is a dynamic marking *mf* (mezzo-forte).

97 *mf* *f* *off the string* *f*

101 *ff* *mp* *f* *mf* *I* $\bullet = 108$

105 *mf* *ff* *mf* *ff*

109

mf

mf

mf

112

113

f

f

mf

f

116

117

f

120

121

System 121: This system contains five staves. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). It features a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes. The second staff is in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps, featuring a rhythmic accompaniment with eighth notes and triplets. The third staff is in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps, featuring a rhythmic accompaniment with eighth notes and triplets. The fourth staff is in bass clef with a key signature of three sharps, featuring a rhythmic accompaniment with eighth notes and triplets. The fifth staff is in bass clef with a key signature of three sharps, featuring a rhythmic accompaniment with eighth notes and triplets. A double bar line is present at the end of the system.

126

System 126: This system contains five staves. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). It features a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes. The second staff is in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps, featuring a rhythmic accompaniment with eighth notes and triplets. The third staff is in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps, featuring a rhythmic accompaniment with eighth notes and triplets. The fourth staff is in bass clef with a key signature of three sharps, featuring a rhythmic accompaniment with eighth notes and triplets. The fifth staff is in bass clef with a key signature of three sharps, featuring a rhythmic accompaniment with eighth notes and triplets. A double bar line is present at the end of the system.

129

System 129: This system contains five staves. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). It features a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes. The second staff is in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps, featuring a rhythmic accompaniment with eighth notes and triplets. The third staff is in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps, featuring a rhythmic accompaniment with eighth notes and triplets. The fourth staff is in bass clef with a key signature of three sharps, featuring a rhythmic accompaniment with eighth notes and triplets. The fifth staff is in bass clef with a key signature of three sharps, featuring a rhythmic accompaniment with eighth notes and triplets. A double bar line is present at the end of the system.

Movement 3

as fast as possible

Guitar

Violin 1

Violin 2

Viola

Cello

A $\text{♩} = 120$

mf

mf

mf

mf

13

arco
mp
arco
mp
arco
mp

17

mf *f*

pizz

B

21

mf
mf
pizz
mf

First system of a musical score in 3/4 time, key of D major. The score consists of five staves. The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps. It begins with a measure of rest, followed by a measure with a box labeled 'C' containing a triplet of eighth notes. The second staff has a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps. The third staff has a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps. The fourth staff has a bass clef and a key signature of two sharps. The fifth staff has a bass clef and a key signature of two sharps. Dynamics include *mf*, *ff*, *arco*, and *off the string*. A double bar line is present at the end of the system.

Second system of the musical score. It continues with five staves. The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps. The second staff has a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps. The third staff has a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps. The fourth staff has a bass clef and a key signature of two sharps. The fifth staff has a bass clef and a key signature of two sharps. Dynamics include *mp* and *mf*. A double bar line is present at the end of the system.

Third system of the musical score. It continues with five staves. The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps. The second staff has a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps. The third staff has a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps. The fourth staff has a bass clef and a key signature of two sharps. The fifth staff has a bass clef and a key signature of two sharps. Dynamics include *mf*, *f*, and *loco*. A double bar line is present at the end of the system.

37

f

pizz

pizz

poco rit.

slide

a tempo

mp

poco rit.

poco rit.

mp

mp

poco rit.

arco

mp

poco rit.

arco

a tempo

mf

mp

45

mf

mf

49

50

51

52

53

54

55

56

mf

f

ff

57

58

59

60

61

62

63

64

f

(8va)

77

78

79

80

81

82

83

84

mp

f

(8va)

First system of a musical score. It consists of five staves. The top staff is a single melodic line. The second staff is a vocal line with lyrics "(Sw)..." and a fermata. The third and fourth staves are piano accompaniment. The bottom staff is a bass line. Dynamics include *mp*, *ff*, *mf*, and *ff*. There are triplets in the bottom staff.

Second system of the musical score. It consists of five staves. The top staff continues the melody. The second staff has lyrics "mf" and "ff". The third and fourth staves are piano accompaniment. The bottom staff is a bass line. Dynamics include *mf*, *ff*, *mp*, and *ff*. There are triplets in the bottom staff.

Third system of the musical score. It consists of five staves. The top staff continues the melody. The second staff has lyrics "(Sw)" and a fermata. The third and fourth staves are piano accompaniment. The bottom staff is a bass line. Dynamics include *mp*, *p*, and *mf*. There are triplets in the bottom staff.

Musical score system 1 (measures 65-70). The system consists of four staves. The first staff is a grand staff (treble and bass clef). The second and third staves are treble clef. The fourth staff is a bass clef. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The time signature is 4/4. The first staff has a *pizz* (pizzicato) marking at measure 65 and an *arco* (arco) marking at measure 70. The second and third staves have a *pizz* marking at measure 65 and an *arco* marking at measure 70. The fourth staff has a *pizz* marking at measure 65 and an *arco* marking at measure 70. The dynamics are *mp* (mezzo-piano) for the first three staves and *mf* (mezzo-forte) for the fourth staff.

Musical score system 2 (measures 71-76). The system consists of four staves. The first staff is a grand staff (treble and bass clef). The second and third staves are treble clef. The fourth staff is a bass clef. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The time signature is 4/4. The first staff has a *mf* (mezzo-forte) marking at measure 71 and an *f* (forte) marking at measure 76. The second and third staves have a *mf* marking at measure 71 and an *f* marking at measure 76. The fourth staff has a *gliss.* (glissando) marking at measure 71. The dynamics are *mf* for the first three staves and *f* for the fourth staff.

Musical score system 3 (measures 77-80). The system consists of four staves. The first staff is a grand staff (treble and bass clef). The second and third staves are treble clef. The fourth staff is a bass clef. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The time signature is 4/4. The first staff has a *non-legato* marking at measure 77 and an *mp* (mezzo-piano) marking at measure 80. The second and third staves have an *f* (forte) marking at measure 77 and an *mp* marking at measure 80. The fourth staff has an *f* marking at measure 77 and an *mp* marking at measure 80. The dynamics are *mp* for the first three staves and *f* for the fourth staff.

First system of a musical score. It consists of five staves. The top staff has a treble clef and a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). It contains a melodic line with eighth-note patterns, marked with dynamics *f* and *mp*. The second staff has a treble clef and contains sustained chords marked *mp*. The third staff has a treble clef and contains sustained chords. The fourth staff has a bass clef and contains a melodic line with eighth-note patterns, marked with dynamics *f* and *mp*. The fifth staff has a bass clef and contains sustained chords. The system concludes with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

Second system of a musical score. It consists of five staves. The top staff has a treble clef and a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). It contains a melodic line with a wavy line above it labeled "pitch waver", marked with a box containing the letter "F". The second staff has a treble clef and contains sustained chords, marked "without vibrato". The third staff has a treble clef and contains sustained chords, marked "without vibrato" and *mp*. The fourth staff has a bass clef and contains sustained chords, marked "without vibrato". The fifth staff has a bass clef and contains sustained chords, marked "without vibrato". The system concludes with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

Third system of a musical score. It consists of five staves. The top staff has a treble clef and a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). It contains a melodic line with half-note patterns, marked *mf*. The second staff has a treble clef and contains sustained chords, marked *mf*. The third staff has a treble clef and contains sustained chords, marked *mf*. The fourth staff has a bass clef and contains sustained chords, marked *mf*. The fifth staff has a bass clef and contains sustained chords, marked *mf*. The system concludes with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

Musical score system 97-100. The system consists of five staves. The top staff is a single melodic line. The second staff has a glissando marking. The third and fourth staves are piano accompaniment. The bottom staff is a bass line. Dynamics include *f* and *mf*. A repeat sign is located below the system.

Musical score system 101-104. The system consists of five staves. The top staff is a single melodic line. The second staff has a glissando marking. The third and fourth staves are piano accompaniment. The bottom staff is a bass line. Dynamics include *mf* and *f*. A repeat sign is located below the system.

Musical score system 105-108. The system consists of five staves. The top staff is a single melodic line. The second staff has a glissando marking. The third and fourth staves are piano accompaniment. The bottom staff is a bass line. Dynamics include *mf* and *f*. A repeat sign is located below the system.

109 **G** *hammer-on*

(8^m)

f *ff* *f* *mf*

sfz

113

(8^m)

f *ff* *mf* *f* *sfz*

slide

117 *loco* *mp* **H** *hammer-on* *f*

f *sfz*

First system of musical notation, measures 121-124. The system consists of five staves. The top staff has a treble clef and a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The bottom staff has a bass clef and the same key signature. The music features complex rhythmic patterns with many triplets and sixteenth notes. Dynamic markings include *ff* (fortissimo) and *mf* (mezzo-forte).

Second system of musical notation, measures 125-128. The system consists of five staves. The top staff has a treble clef and a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The bottom staff has a bass clef and the same key signature. The music continues with complex rhythmic patterns, including triplets and sixteenth notes. Dynamic markings include *mp* (mezzo-piano), *f* (forte), and *ff* (fortissimo).

Third system of musical notation, measures 129-132. The system consists of five staves. The top staff has a treble clef and a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The bottom staff has a bass clef and the same key signature. The music continues with complex rhythmic patterns, including triplets and sixteenth notes. Dynamic markings include *ff* (fortissimo).