
Sid Richardson

Comb
for string quartet

2018

Comb

Instrumentation

Violin I

Violin II

Viola

Violoncello

Performance Notes

Accidentals hold throughout the bar.

Duration: ca. 7 minutes

Program Notes

Comb was inspired by the jewelry of René Lalique, particularly his hair combs and diadems held in the collection at the Calouste Gulbenkian Museum in Lisbon. Lalique had a remarkable life in which he excelled at two distinct careers: first, as an exclusive jewelry designer and later, as a designer of commercial glassware. Just before the turn of the century, Lalique began to exhibit his jewels at Siegfried Bing's Paris gallery *La Maison de l'Art Nouveau*. Later the term 'Art Nouveau' came to describe the modern sensitivity his work exhibited. Lalique's fascination with nature and Japanese art reflect the ideals of the Art Nouveau movement, which in reaction to 'academic' art focused on structures derived from plants, insects, birds, and landscapes. Lalique's combs and diadems in the Gulbenkian collection teem with these forms. Lalique is credited with introducing horn, which he appreciated for its malleability and transparency, as a new medium for jewelry. His curving combs impressed me with their delicate strength and bold designs that hybridize natural and artificial elements. These abstract qualities, and visual images of Lalique's combs, have inspired string textures that "comb" through harmonic material spun out of the opening motto. Lalique's jewels have stimulated a lush, lyrical sound world, in which the members of the quartet form a fantastic new comb. Structurally, the viola and cello make up the shaft, or backbone of the metaphorical comb, whereas the violins fulfill the role of the more delicate teeth.

This work was created under the aegis of the Gabriela Lena Frank Creative Academy of Music and premiered by the Del Sol Quartet in San Francisco, CA, on December 12, 2018.

Comb

for the Del Sol Quartet

Sid Richardson
(b. 1987)

♩ = 96 *Lirico*

Violin I
Violin II
Viola
Violoncello

Measures 1-5. Violin I and II enter in measure 3 with a forte (*f*) trill. Viola and Violoncello play a melodic line starting in measure 1. Dynamics include *p*, *mf*, *f*, *pp*, and *mp*. A triplet of eighth notes is marked in measures 4 and 5 for all instruments.

Measures 6-11. The tempo changes to 84 *meno mosso*. Measure 6 begins with a glissando (*gliss.*) and a triplet of eighth notes. Dynamics range from *f* to *pp*. Measure 11 features a triplet of eighth notes in the Violin I and II parts.

Measures 12-15. Measure 12 starts with a trill (*tr*) in the Violin I and II parts. Dynamics include *pp*, *mf*, *mf sost.*, and *f*. Measure 15 ends with a triplet of eighth notes in the Violoncello part.

18 *p* *mf* *f* *pp* sub. *mp* *gliss.*

19 *p* *mf* *f* *pp* sub. *mp* *gliss.*

20 *p* *mf* *f* *pp* sub. *mp* *gliss.*

21 *p* *mf* *f* *pp* sub. *mp* *gliss.*

22 *p* *mf* *f* *pp* sub. *mp* *gliss.*

23 *p* *pp* *mp* *pp* *5* *6* *pp*

24 *p* *pp* *mp* *pp* *3* *pp*

25 *f* *pp* *f* to the fore *pp* *5* *pp*

26 *f* *pp* *mp* *pp* *3* *6* *pp*

Tempo Primo (♩ = 96)

27 *sfz* *sfz* *sim.* *mf* *f* *6*

28 *sfz* *sfz* *sim.* *f* *6* *mf*

29 *sfz* *sfz* *sim.* *ff* *f* *6* *mf*

30 *sfz* *sfz* *sim.* *mf* *3*

39 Furtive

36

mf *p* *pp* *mf* *shreddy*

mf *p* *pp* *sub. mf shreddy*

mf *p* *pp* *sub. mf shreddy*

mf *p* *pp* *sub. mf shreddy*

40

mf *shreddy* *f* *shreddy*

mf *shreddy* *f*

f

f

44

ff

ff

p

ff

f

ff

f

48

f

6

3

mf

6

3

pp

f

3

mp

pp

mf

f

6

mf

pp

f

3

6

6

pp

poco rit. a tempo

52

6

6

5

5

5

5

3

3

mf

mp

p

mf

p

mf

p

mf

p

mf

56

floating 5

f *ff* *f*

mf *ff* *f*

pizz. arco

3

61

f *p* *mp*

fp *mp* *f*

fp *mp* *f*

fp *mp* *f*

3

65

mf *p* *pp*

mf *pp* *pp*

mf *pp* *pp*

mf *pp* *pp*

5 3 3 3

69

solì with cello
p *mf* *sub. pp* *f* *mp*

solì with viola
p *mf* *sub. pp* *f* *mp*

75

fp *mf* *p* *mf* *gliss.*

fp *mf* *p* *mf*

80

fp *pp* *fp* *mfp* *fmp* *p*

fp *mf* *fmp* *p*

fp *mf* *mp* *fmp*

fp *mfp* *fmp* *p*

85

to the fore

mf *mp* *mp* *pp* *pp* *mp*

89

fp *f* *p* *mf* *mf* *mf* *mf* *mf*

94 Tempo Primo

93

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

101

mf shreddy

mf shreddy

mf shreddy

mf shreddy

105

The musical score for measures 105-108 consists of four staves. The first two staves are in treble clef, and the last two are in bass clef. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The first staff begins with a forte (f) dynamic marking. The music features a variety of note values, including eighth and sixteenth notes, often beamed together. There are several slurs and ties across measures. The second staff also has a forte (f) dynamic marking. The third and fourth staves are in bass clef and also feature complex rhythmic patterns. The score is divided into four measures, with a double bar line after the second measure. The notation is dense, with many accidentals and dynamic markings.

109 poco sul pont.

mf poco sul pont.

mf poco sul pont.

mf poco sul pont.

mf

ord.

ff ord.

ff ord.

ff ord., wide vib.

ff

113

f

ff

wide vib.

fff non dim.

f

ff

wide vib.

fff non dim.

f

ff

wide vib.

fff non dim.

f

ff

fff non dim.

119 ♩ = 69 Floating

118

mf

f

gliss.

mf

6

6

6

6

6

6

6

5

5

5

5

5

5