Siri Livingston

# if I stepped into my body I would break / into blossom

for viola and piano

2023

**FULL SCORE** 

frontmatter
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First performance details Dominic Stokes (viola) and Abigail Chen (piano)

Milton Court Concert Hall, London, UK. 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2023

**Duration** 6 minutes

#### Instrumentation

Viola (scordatura lowest string to A2)

Piano

**Score** is in C

#### Notation

Breath-marks. Separates phrases and suggests places for a breath or just an intentional brief pause to prepare to place the next gesture.

circular bowing The technique of moving the bow in a circular motion across the strings, bringing out the sounding pitches faintly as well as uncontrolled timbral effects.

lento – accel. – rit.	Used with circular bowing. Varying the speed of the circular motions, changing the sound quality.
A	Note-names to help to identify extremely low bass notes on the piano, where 8vba lines were not desirable for notational and musical reasons.
ped	Pedal markings. The pedal remains down continuously through the entirety of the first and third movements.

#### **Performance instructions**

The work is completely unmetred, containing stopwatch markings *only as a reference point to be used in the rehearsal process*. The aim is for the poetic directions written by the composer and the character of musical gestures to be realised into a performance through a process of getting to know the piece very well, making decisions as an interdependent duo, and testing one's musical intuitions, hopefully as a stimulating process also involving input from the composer.

#### Programme note

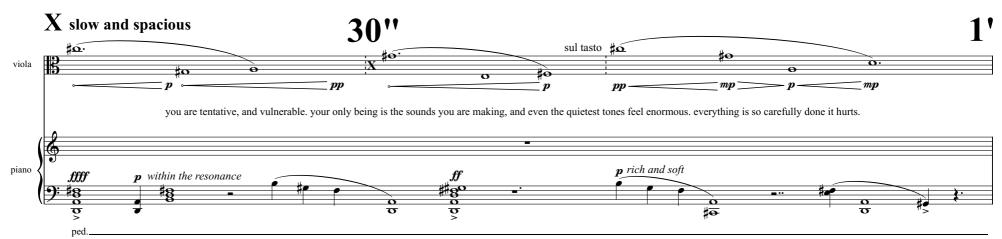
In this new composition by Siri Livingston, the piano is a powerful and massive entity, its first resonant, pedal-laden chord calling the delicate timbre of the viola into being. The viola must then explore and come into some form of relationship with its creator.

# if I stepped into my body I would break / into blossom

for James Wright

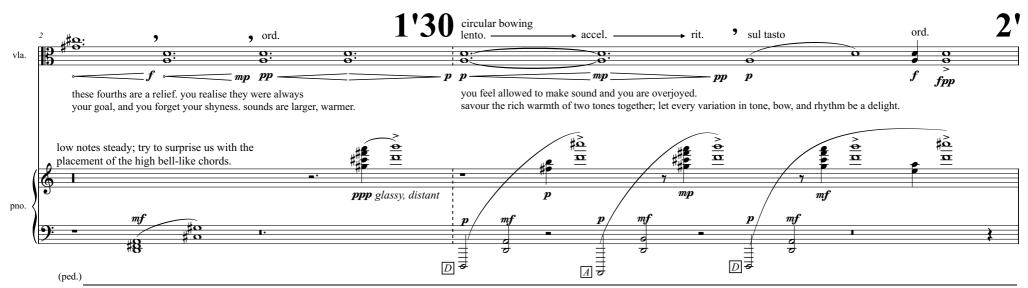
SIRI LIVINGSTON

#### I. embodying

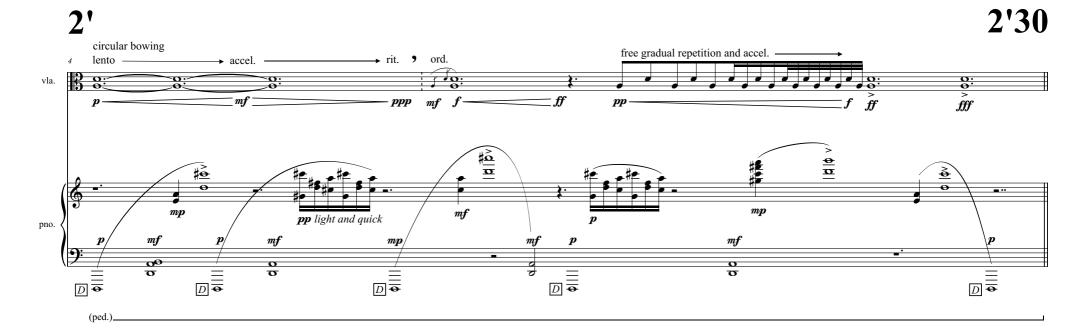


with this chord you have made the world. sound, fury, colour, light. let it ring and ring as long as it wants to.

gentler now. you are still working, but also enjoying your own power.

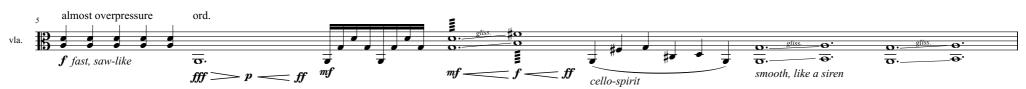


the slightest flicker of sunlight through closed eyelids a bell perceived in sleep. the bell-song is getting closer, the splashes of yellow sun warmer. in the inky dark blue it flashes at the very edges of your vision. you know everything that will ever and could ever be — yet savour the song all the same.



## II. breaking

# 2'30 rough and energetic



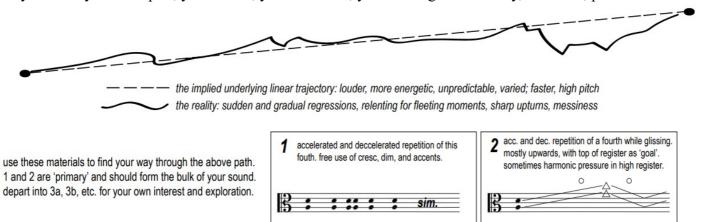
there were freedoms and powers you were unaware of. you indulge them, tearing yourself away from the one who made you.

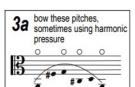
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vla.

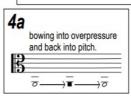
### 4'

#### you struggle to control your own momentum. you draw yourself apart, you detune, you lose form; you disintegrate into fury, rebellion, proliferation.

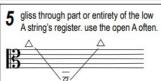














your rage and disappointment are beyond comprehension. your anger is the inexorable movement of water, clashing boulders and raging fires.

#### III. blossom

