

City Faces~SQ

for String Quartet

IV Partition

Music by
Vanessa McClintock

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City Faces

for Viola & Cello Duet, or String Quartet

City Faces is an episodic conversation between two storytellers in the original version for viola and cello, and four with the expanded string quartet version. A third version is an extraction of the fourth “partition” of the string quartet, with an ending suitable for a standalone version.

The piece is a continuous succession of several sections divided into five partitions (not movements), and each with its own personality. All contribute to a greater whole, not unlike William Saroyan's "The Human Comedy." Each episode or section eventually can be traced to the original motif, presented at the very beginning by the cello, or to one of its conversions.

The original working title was "The City Has Many Faces," with a subtitle of "Themes and Permutations." Each permutation—or variation—in some way depicts elements of any city or town but leaves it to the imagination of the listener to visualize, imagine, or perhaps sense what each one is. The segments might be about people, places, ideas, emotions—all depending on the individual's responses to the music. It was written originally as a duet for viola and cello; with the quartet, the music has expanded linearly, vertically, and harmonically.

Each listener will have unique experiences. At least a few elements likely will emerge: anxiety, joy, faith, fear, compassion, love, and hope, as each person will hear, see, imagine, and sense similarly and differently.

In the string quarter version, with the expansion from two to four instruments, the physical demands placed on the viola and especially the cello are considerably mitigated. Nevertheless, the cello is the “Atlas” throughout the entirety. The endings of each section are marked with fermati and double-bar lines, and in the quartet adaptation, an empty measure to provide a three second pause. This is to allow the musicians the option to pause for page turns and—especially for the cellist—to rest. From a purely musical standpoint, they may choose to continue *attacca*. The original viola part is now shared with the two violins but retains much of its original presence.

Tempi and dynamics are relative to the music hall, and the skill and interpretation of the musicians. The music must *BREATHE*.

Throughout the performance, the governing concept is that of *conversations* and interactions between the performers.

The original duet version was started in August 2021 and completed in March 2022. The string quartet version was completed in August 2021 but received minor tweaks through to August 2022.

Performance time is approximately twenty-three minutes.

Vanessa McClintock

City Faces

for String Quartet
(extracted partition IV)

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Violin I

Violin II

Viola

Cello

386

1

392

7

398

13

poco rall.

404

19

$\text{♩} = 60$

rallentando

a tempo

mf

p

mf

p

mf

mf

pizz.

$\text{♩} = 48$

410
25

First system of music, measures 410-25. It features four staves. The top two staves are treble clef, and the bottom two are bass clef. The key signature has two flats. The music includes various notes, rests, and dynamic markings. The first staff has a *pizz.* marking above measure 25. The second staff has a *mf* marking below measure 25. The third staff has a *mf* marking below measure 25. The fourth staff has a *mf* marking below measure 25.

416
31

Second system of music, measures 416-31. It features four staves. The top two staves are treble clef, and the bottom two are bass clef. The key signature has two flats. The music includes various notes, rests, and dynamic markings. The first staff has an *arco* marking above measure 31. The second staff has an *arco* marking above measure 31. The third staff has an *arco* marking above measure 31. The fourth staff has an *arco* marking above measure 31.

422
37

Third system of music, measures 422-37. It features four staves. The top two staves are treble clef, and the bottom two are bass clef. The key signature has two flats. The music includes various notes, rests, and dynamic markings. The first staff has an *arco* marking above measure 37. The second staff has an *arco* marking above measure 37. The third staff has an *arco* marking above measure 37. The fourth staff has an *arco* marking above measure 37.

428
43

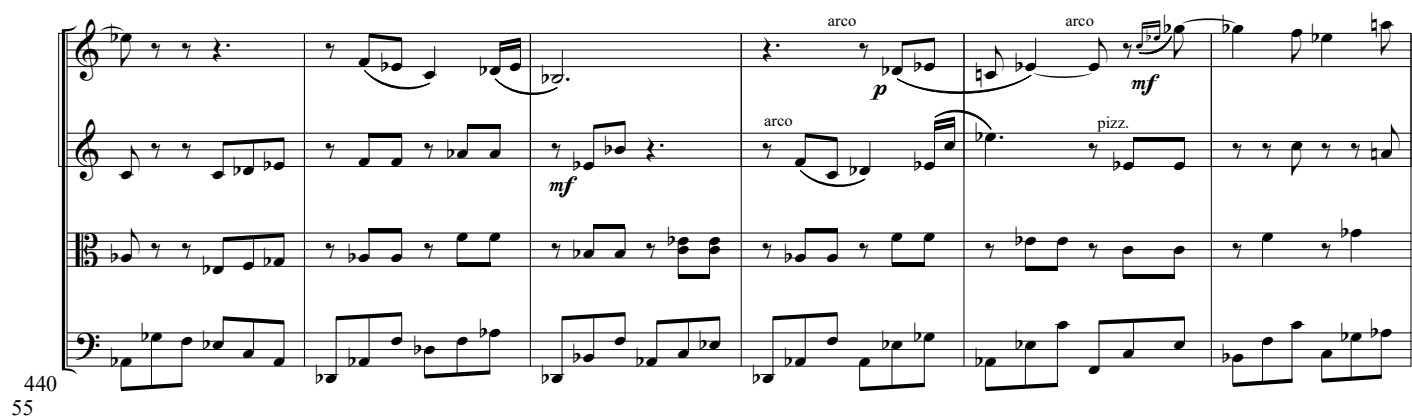
Fourth system of music, measures 428-43. It features four staves. The top two staves are treble clef, and the bottom two are bass clef. The key signature has two flats. The music includes various notes, rests, and dynamic markings. The first staff has a *rit.* marking above measure 43. The second staff has a *pizz.* marking above measure 43. The third staff has a *pizz.* marking above measure 43. The fourth staff has a *pizz.* marking above measure 43. A tempo marking $\text{♩} = 48$ is present above measure 43.

434
49



System 1: Four staves of music. The top staff features a melodic line with a triplet of eighth notes. The second and third staves provide harmonic support with eighth-note patterns. The bottom staff has a bass line with occasional rests.

440
55



System 2: Four staves of music. The top staff includes dynamic markings *p* and *mf*, and performance instructions *arco* and *pizz.*. The second staff has a *mf* marking. The third and fourth staves continue the harmonic and bass lines.

446
61



System 3: Four staves of music. The top staff has a melodic line with a half note. The second staff has a half note. The third and fourth staves have a more active bass line.

452
67



System 4: Four staves of music. The top staff includes a *pizz.* marking. The second and third staves include *arco* markings. The fourth staff continues the bass line.

458
73

rit. $\text{♩} = 60$

pizz. *p* *mf*

arco *mf*

arco *mf*

464
79

arco

470
85

poco rall.

$\text{♩} = 48$ $\text{♩} = 60$

476
91