Acqua e Luce

per quartetto d'archi

Ryan Suleiman

(2012)

Acqua e Luce

Ryan Suleiman, 2012
approx. length: 6'30

Program Notes:

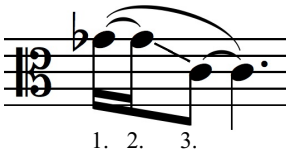
This piece was composed for and premiered at the HighSCORE Festival in Pavia, Italy. I wanted to experiment with the vast coloristic, textural, and expressive possibilities the historic instrumentation of string quartet has to offer. As a structural framework for this goal, I decided to use the emerging and passing of a storm. For example, many of the sustained and glissandi *(a technique of "sliding" from one note to the other) passages represent sunlight, and the* col legno *(the strings are hit with the wood of the bow) and* pizzicati *textures in the middle section often represent rain and water. However, it isn't so important that the listener necessarily hears this connection. Instead, I've seen it as a tool for me to compose interesting sounds, contrasts, and to create an emotionally satisfying musical journey for the listener.* (R.S.)

Acqua e Luce

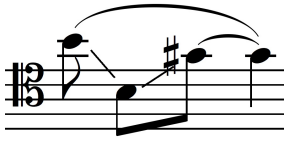
Ryan Suleiman, 2012
aprox. length: 6'15

Performance Notes:

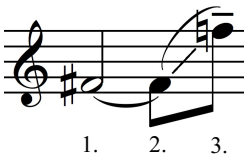
Super-musical expression markings such as "*rainfall*" or "*the sun shines through the clouds*" illustrate some conceptual ideas I had about the program. I've only included them to give performers possible ideas or suggestions regarding musical interpretation, but they shouldn't be taken too literally. The ensemble should play expressively, and use good taste.



Example A



Example B



Example C

Glissandi in the piece should be performed for the full duration of the beat, emphasizing all the microtones equally from the first note to the last. There are no portamenti. However, playing the correct starting and arriving pitch in tune is crucial - the passages contain very important melodic and harmonic material. In the places where I wanted a pitch held or emphasized, I have indicated it with a specific rhythmic value, tied to the note which is played glissando.

In Example A, note 1 is held, and the glissando is performed immediately and evenly begining at note 2, until arriving at note 3. Note 3 is held for its full rhythmic value, with the correct pitch.
In Example B, no extra emphasis should be placed on notes 1 and 2; just play the glissandi evenly between the pitches and hold note 3 for its full duration.
In Example C, note 1 is held for its full value, the glissando is executed evenly during the full rhythmic value of note 2, and note 3 is held for its full duration.

Acqua e Luce was premiered by *Quartetto Indaco* on 2 August 2012 in Pavia, Italy, at the HighSCORE Festival of contemporary music. It was written for and is dedicated to the festival. Please feel free to get in touch for any questions or concerns regarding the piece, or anything else really. (R.S.)

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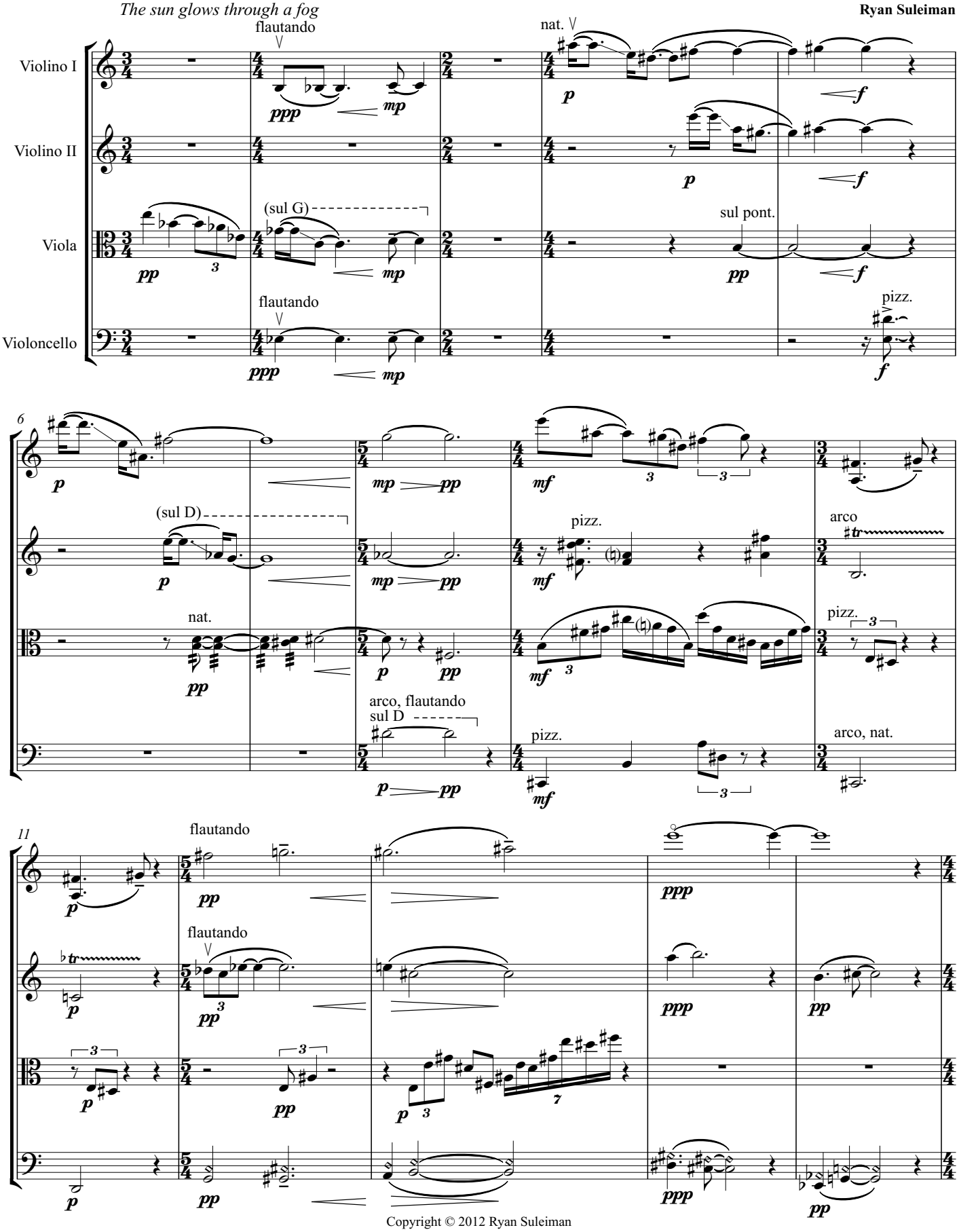
Dedicated to the High Score Festival in Pavia, Italy

Acqua e Luce

Dolce, espressivo ♩ = 54

The sun glows through a fog

Ryan Suleiman



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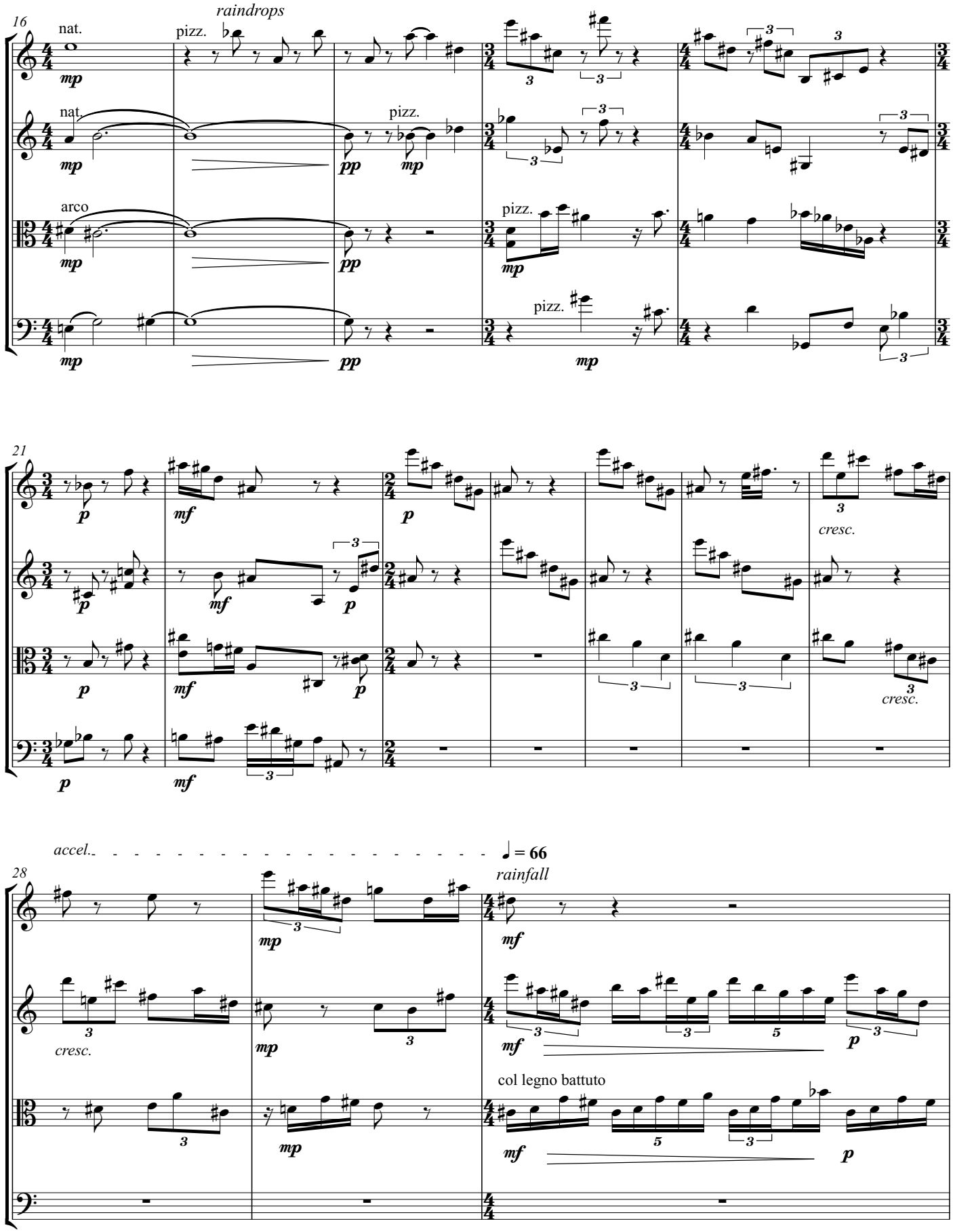
16
raindrops
nat.
pizz.
nat.
pizz.
arco
pizz.
pizz.
21
cresc.
cresc.
accel.
♩ = 66
28
rainfall
cresc.
col legno battuto