

MUSIC FOR STRINGS

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

# Andante Cantabile

from String Quartet, Op. 11

edited for String Orchestra  
by Nikk Pilato

# MUSIC FOR STRINGS

## INSTRUMENTATION

Violin I  
Violin II  
Viola  
Violoncello  
Contrabass

## NOTES

"Never in my life have I felt so flattered, never have I been so proud of my creative powers as when Leo Tolstoy sat in the chair next to mine listening to my *Andante*, and the tears ran down his cheeks," wrote Tchaikovsky in 1876 during a special concert organized for the famed writer at the Moscow Conservatory. Originally the second movement of Tchaikovsky's String Quartet, Op. 11, the *Andante Cantabile* has enjoyed a second life in many versions, including versions for full string orchestra, for cello solo and orchestra accompaniment, and various other instrumental combinations. The main theme is based on a Russian folksong, well known during the 1870s, which Tchaikovsky heard at Kamenka in the summer of 1869 from a carpenter who was a native of the Kalush province.

This edition utilizes some of the more commonly heard stylistic interpretations of the *Andante* and adds the contrabass part, where appropriate, to the original composition. Bowings are not included, as this is a highly individual area, and different concertmasters and section principals (or conductors themselves) may wish to approach bowings in a different manner.

## COMPOSER

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky was born in Votkinsk, Russia, on 7 May 1840. Musically gifted from an early age, the young Tchaikovsky began piano lessons at five, and studied composition with Anton Rubenstein, the director and founder of the St. Petersburg Conservatory. Among his most popular compositions are his final three symphonies (4, 5, and 6), the *Romeo and Juliet* and *1812* overtures, and the ballets *Swan Lake*, *Sleeping Beauty*, and *The Nutcracker*. Tchaikovsky died on 6 November 1893, and was interred in Tikhvin Cemetery at the Alexander Nevsky Monastery in St Petersburg. The cause of death remains in dispute to this day, with some historians claiming it was a suicide, while most contend it was caused by a bout of cholera.

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# Andante Cantabile

from String Quartet, Op. 11

PYOTR ILYICH TCHAIKOVSKY

edited by Nikk Pilato

Andante Cantabile (♩ = c. 60)

VIOLIN I  
*p con sordino*

VIOLIN II  
*p con sordino*

VIOLA  
*p con sordino*

VIOLONCELLO  
*p con sordino*

CONTRABASS  
*p con sordino*

2/4 3/4 2/4

VLN. 1  
*p*

VLN. 2  
*p*

VLA.  
*p*

Vc.  
*p*

C.B.  
*p*

3/4 2/4

7 8 9 10 11 12

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Score, Andante Cantabile, Page 3

Musical score for measures 24-28, featuring five staves: VLN. 1, VLN. 2, VLA., Vc., and C.B. The score includes dynamic markings *mf* and *pp*. A large diagonal watermark "PERUSAL SCORE" is overlaid on the page.

Measures 24-28

Measures 24-28

Musical score for measures 29-33, featuring five staves: VLN. 1, VLN. 2, VLA., Vc., and C.B. The score includes dynamic markings *p* and *pp*. A large diagonal watermark "PERUSAL SCORE" is overlaid on the page.

Measures 29-33

Measures 29-33

C

Musical score for measures 46-51. The score is for five instruments: Violin 1 (VLN. 1), Violin 2 (VLN. 2), Viola (VLA.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Contrabasso (C.B.). The key signature is two flats (B-flat and E-flat). Measure 46 starts with a common time signature 'C'. The music features melodic lines in the upper strings and a rhythmic accompaniment in the lower strings. Dynamics include *pp* (pianissimo) in measure 50.

46

47

48

50

51

Musical score for measures 52-57. The score is for five instruments: Violin 1 (VLN. 1), Violin 2 (VLN. 2), Viola (VLA.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Contrabasso (C.B.). The key signature is two flats. Measure 52 starts with a repeat sign. Dynamics include *mf* (mezzo-forte) in measure 52, *pp* (pianissimo) in measures 53 and 54, and *p molto espressivo* (piano molto espressivo) in measure 55. The lower strings play a rhythmic pattern marked *pizz* (pizzicato).

VLN. 1

VLN. 2

VLA.

Vc.

C.B.

52

53

54

55

56

57

VLN. 1

VLN. 2

VLA.

Vc.

C.B.

58 59 60 61 62

VLN. 1

VLN. 2

VLA.

Vc.

C.B.

63 64 65 66 67

*mp*

Musical score for measures 68-72. The score is for five instruments: Violin 1 (VLN. 1), Violin 2 (VLN. 2), Viola (VLA.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Contrabasso (C.B.). The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The time signature is 4/4. The music features a dynamic marking of *p* (piano) starting at measure 70. A hairpin crescendo is shown between measures 69 and 70. The measures are numbered 68, 69, 70, 71, and 72 at the bottom.

Musical score for measures 73-77. The score is for five instruments: Violin 1 (VLN. 1), Violin 2 (VLN. 2), Viola (VLA.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Contrabasso (C.B.). The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The time signature is 4/4. The music features a dynamic marking of *p* (piano) starting at measure 73. The measures are numbered 73, 74, 75, 76, and 77 at the bottom. Trill ornaments are present in measures 75 and 76.

VLN. 1

VLN. 2

VLA.

Vc.

C.B.

88 89 90 91 92 93

VLN. 1

VLN. 2

VLA.

Vc.

C.B.

94 95 96 97 98 99

*rallentando...*

**D** *a tempo*

*pp* *p espress.*

*pp* *p espress.*

*pp* *p espress.*

*pp* *p*

*pp* *p*

*arco*

*arco*

**3**  
**4**



VLN. 1

VLN. 2

VLA.  $\frac{3}{4}$   $\frac{2}{4}$

Vc.

C.B.

100 101 102 103 104 105

VLN. 1

VLN. 2

VLA.  $\frac{3}{4}$   $\frac{2}{4}$

Vc.

C.B.

*poco a poco crescendo . . .*

*poco a poco crescendo . . .*

*poco a poco crescendo . . .*

*poco a poco crescendo . . .*

*poco a poco crescendo . . .*

106 107 108 109 110 111

**F**

VLN. 1 *sul G* *p* *molto espressivo* 3

VLN. 2 *pizz* *(pp)*

VLA. *pizz* *(pp)*

Vc. *pizz* *(pp)*

C.B. *pizz* *(pp)*

136 137 138 139 140 141

VLN. 1 3

VLN. 2

VLA.

Vc.

C.B.

142 143 144 145 146 147