

Kaitlin White

THE MOIRAI SUITE



For piano trio

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“The Moirai Suite” is a three-movement suite for piano trio inspired by the Moirai, also known as the Fates from Greek Mythology. Each movement is based on one of the three sisters and aims to embody their distinct characters.

“Clotho, the Spinner,” is the first of the three sisters and the first movement in the suite. She spins the thread that symbolizes life, which is conveyed by the consistent increase in tempo throughout the piece. The piece begins with an arpeggiated pattern played by the piano before the introduction of the violin and viola. In addition to the accelerating tempo, dynamics grow as the string instruments constantly become more active. Shortly after the piece climaxes, the instruments relax in tempo and activity before dying away.

“Lachesis, the Alloter,” determines how long one's life will be by drawing out the thread. Once again, the piece begins with the piano playing an oscillating pattern, which is maintained throughout the entire piece. One by one, layers are added to the piano and strings to create a smooth, almost linear transition from a thin texture to a very full texture. Unlike the previous movement, there is more ebb and flow to the swell of this piece due to the shape created by the dynamics, contrasting the linear transition from a thin to a thick texture.

“Atropos, the Cutter,” the last of the Moirai, cuts the string. She symbolizes death, and for that reason, is also known as the inevitable. The dissonance in this piece aims to convey Atropos’ unpleasant nature, while the chord progressions that abruptly stop, often leaving a single trembling note in their wake, are meant to depict the act of cutting the thread.



Engraving *The Three Fates; Clotho, Lachesis and Atropos* completed from 1558-59 by Giorgio Ghisi (1520-1582)

Clotho

The Spinner

Kaitlin White

Unravelling ♩ = 66

Violin

Cello

Piano

ppp

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

mp

p

2

Clotho

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

mp

pp

mf

pp

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

pp

p

mp

pp

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

mp

p

p

mp

Clotho

3

accel.

Vln. *mp*

Vc.

Pno. *mf*

$\text{♩} = 88$

Vln. *mf*

Vc. *mf*

Pno. *mp*

accel.

Vln. *mp*

Vc. *p*

Pno.

4 $\text{♩} = 108$ Clotho

Vln. *mf*

Vc. *f* *mp*

Pno. *mf*

Vln. *mp*

Vc. *mf*

Pno. *mp*

Vln. *mp* *mf*

Vc. *mp* *mf*

Pno. *p* *mf*