

JUDITH SHATIN

Penelope's Song

Amplified Viola & Electronics



Program Note

Penelope's Song is a tribute to Penelope, Queen of Ithaca and wife of Odysseus. It was inspired by Homer's *Odyssey*, which tells of the travails of Odysseus, with ten years at war in Troy, and, due to the sea-god Poseidon's wrath, another ten. Scant attention is paid to Penelope, left waiting all this time with greedy suitors attempting to woo her to become king. To stave them off she said she would take no suitor until she finished weaving a shroud for her husband's father, Laertes. But she unraveled at night what she wove by day and made no progress. *Penelope's Song* traces the weaving, Penelope's ruminations and the nightly unraveling, culminating in explosive ripping.

I created the electronics from recordings of Charlottesville weaver Jan Russell working on her wooden looms. I processed them and wove a sonic fabric with the acoustic and digital elements as warp and weft. This original version is for amplified viola and electronics, with thanks to violists Rozanna Weinberger and Laura Wilcox for their insights and interpretations. It has also been performed by many violists, including Korey Konkol, who performed it on his Primrose Memorial Recital at Brigham Young University. I have also composed versions for amplified soprano saxophone, clarinet, flute, violin and cello.

Kathy Aoki and Marco Marquez created a compelling companion video available to accompany performance if desired. —JS

Performance Notes

For electronic soundtrack and video, please contact asst@judithshatin.com.

The viola should be lightly amplified and mixed with the electronics in order to inhabit the same sonic atmosphere. If the venue is small enough, this may not be required, though it is always desirable.

The electronics were notated to give guideposts, rather than giving exact detail. While the rhythmic sections of the electronics and instrumental part synchronize, there is more flexibility in the middle section.

World Premiere Laura Wilcox Musica Viva Festival Coimbra, Portugal 9/17/03
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Duration: 9:02

Penelope's Song

Judith Shatin

Strong $\bullet = 120$ **:08.5**

Viola

Electronics

Weaving sounds

Denser weaving sounds

Pattern continues

Cue 1

:20

Vla.

Texture thickens

pattern continues

:28.5

mf

f

Vla.

:34

p

mf

pizz.

arco

pattern continues

:43 *Dancing*

p

mf

Vla.

mp *f* *mp*

8

Vla.

:57

p *f* *mf* *f*

Spinning rattle added

Vla.

1:07

ff *ff*

Vla.

1:16

f *f*

Vla.

mf

Vla.

1:32

Gradually change to sul pont

p *mp* *cresc.*

Light spinning sound

Pattern continues

Vla.

to ord.

ord

f

Vla. *ord*

p

1:48 *Spiccato* *ord.*

mp

pattern continues

cresc.

2:00

f

Texture begins to thicken

mf

2:04

f

sul pont.

ff

f

ord

sul pont.

ff

ord.

f

2:14

ff

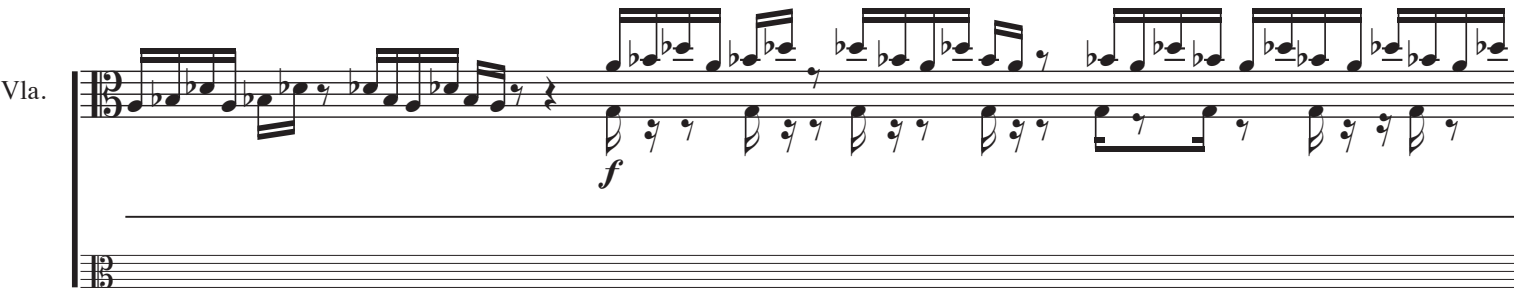
Pattern continues to chords

Weaving sounds gradually fade;
Pitches remain

Vla.



Vla.



Vla.

2:37

Start after 4th chord

Defiant



Vla.

Stoic

mf

f

rit.

2:52

Pattern continues, Eighth notes gradually fade.



Vla.

3:02

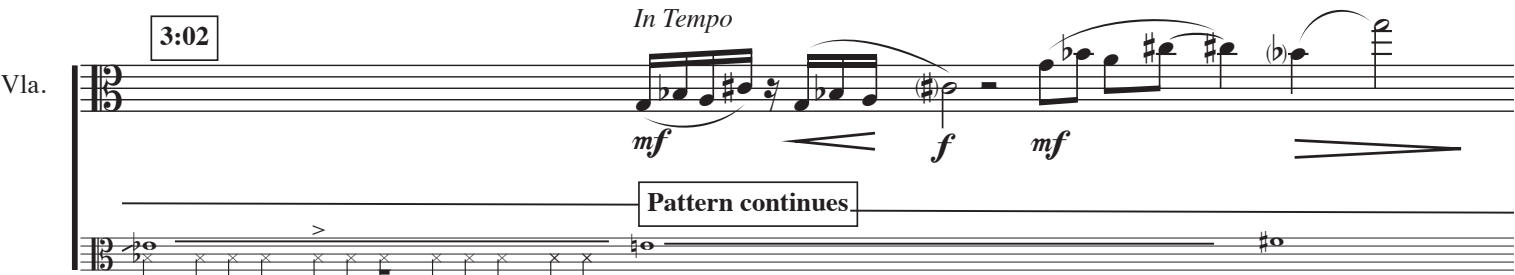
In Tempo

mf

f

mf

Pattern continues



Vla.

p

mf

rit.

a piacere

f

Rubato a piacere to end of section

mp

mf

Gradually turns to quiet spinning sounds



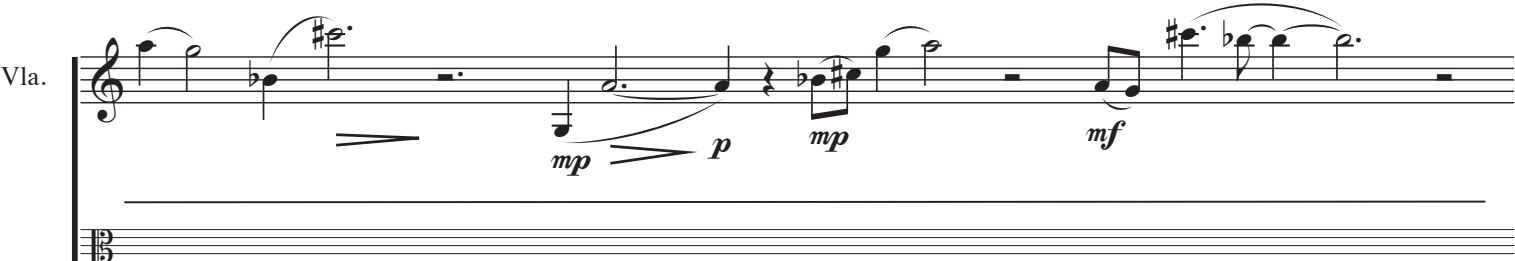
Vla.

mp

p

mp

mf



Vla. *Freely Dreaming* (Rhythm approximate)

0:00

Cue 1 ends at 3:56

Cue 2

Pitched Noise

mp *pp* *p* *mp*

Vla. *sul pont.* *ord* *Wistful*

4:13

wind sounds

f *mp* *p* *mp* *p*

Vla. :33

mf *mp* *mf* *mp* *p*

Low Hum

Vla. 5:10

little finger pressure

Repeat ad lib *molto accel*, then *molto rit.*

overvibrate

Gong-like sounds

pp

Vla. 5:27

ord *1/4 +/-* *mp* *p*

To *sul pont.* *sul pont.* *rit to ord.*

Gong-like sounds

1/4 *1/4*

Vla. 5:41 *Yearning*

Humming Sounds

p *mf* *mp* *mf*

Vla.

Increasing noise

mp *mf* *mp* *p*

Repeat a piacere,
changing register *ad lib.*

Vla.

p *mf* *p* *mf*

Cue 2 ends at 6:50 Cue 3 Bobbin Rattle

Singing Recitative Style

Vla.

7:08

Increasingly dramatic
In Tempo

Vla.

f *mf* *p*

Vla.

7:20 7:26

mf

Vla.

7:32

Spirited

f

ratchet sound

Vla.

7:40

Lightly

mf

Vla.

pattern continues

Vla. 7:48

mp *f* pattern continues

Vla.

mp *f*

Vla.

mf *f*

Vla.

mf *f*

Vla.

mf *f*

Vla. 8:16 *Determined*

ff *f*

Vla.

mf *f* *sul pont*

Vla.

8:32

ord

Vla.

1:47

ff

Vla.

To sul pont.

f

sul pont.

ord.

Vla.

8:48

sul pont.

ord.

ff

Vla.

Triumphant

To sul pont.

sul pont.

Vla.

ord.

To sul pont.

Wild!

sul pont.

9:02

cresc. possibile al fine

Penelope's Song

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Strong $\bullet = 120$ **:08.5**

Viola

Electronics

Weaving sounds

Denser weaving sounds

Pattern continues

Cue 1

:20

Vla.

Texture thickens

pattern continues

:28.5

mf

f

Vla.

:34

p

mf

pizz.

arco

pattern continues

:43 *Dancing*

p

mf

Vla.

mp *f* *mp*

8

Vla.

:57

p *f* *mf* *f*

Spinning rattle added

Vla.

1:07

ff *ff*

Vla.

1:16

f *f*

Vla.

mf

Vla.

1:32

Gradually change to sul pont

p *mp* *cresc.*

Light spinning sound

Pattern continues

Vla.

to ord.

ord

f

Vla. *ord*

p

1:48 *Spiccato* *ord.*

mp *cresc.*

pattern continues

2:00

f *mf*

Texture begins to thicken

2:04

f *ff* *f*

sul pont. *ord*

ff *f*

sul pont. *ord.*

2:14

ff

Pattern continues to chords

Weaving sounds gradually fade;
Pitches remain

Vla.

mf

Vla.

f

Vla.

2:37

Start after 4th chord

Defiant

p

f

Vla.

Stoic

mf

f

rit.

2:52

p

Pattern continues, Eighth notes gradually fade.

Vla.

3:02

In Tempo

mf

f

mf

Pattern continues

Vla.

p

mf

rit.

a piacere

f

mp

mf

Rubato a piacere to end of section

Gradually turns to quiet spinning sounds

Vla.

mp

p

mp

mf

Vla. *Freely Dreaming* *(Rhythm approximate)*

0:00

Cue 1 ends at 3:56

Cue 2

Pitched Noise

mp *pp* *p* *mp*

Vla. *sul pont.* *ord* *Wistful*

4:13

wind sounds

f *mp* *p* *mp* *p*

Vla. :33

Distant

mf *mp* *mf* *mp* *p*

Low Hum

Vla. 5:10

little finger pressure

Repeat ad lib *molto accel*, then *molto rit.*

overvibrate

Gong-like sounds

pp

Vla. 5:27

ord *1/4 +/-* *To sul pont.* *sul pont.* *rit to ord.*

Gong-like sounds

mp *p*

Vla. 5:41 *Yearning*

Humming Sounds

p *mf* *mp* *mf*

Vla.

Increasing noise

mp *mf* *mp* *p*

Repeat a piacere,
changing register *ad lib.*

Vla.

p *mf* *p* *mf*

Cue 2 ends at 6:50 Cue 3 Bobbin Rattle

Singing Recitative Style

Vla.

7:08

Increasingly dramatic
In Tempo

Vla.

f *mf* *p*

Vla.

7:20 7:26

mf

Vla.

7:32 *Spirited*

f ratchet sound

Vla.

7:40 *Lightly*

mf

Vla.

pattern continues

Vla. 7:48

mp *f*

pattern continues

Vla.

mp *f*

Vla.

mf *f*

Vla.

mf *f*

Vla.

mf *f*

Vla. 8:16 *Determined*

ff

Vla.

sul pont *f*

Vla.

8:32

ord

Vla.

1:47

ff

Vla.

To sul pont.

f

sul pont.

ord.

Vla.

8:48

sul pont.

ord.

ff

Vla.

Triumphant

To sul pont.

sul pont.

Vla.

ord.

To sul pont.

Wild!

sul pont.

9:02

cresc. possibile al fine

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Weaving sounds

Denser weaving sounds

Pattern continues

Cue 1

:20

Vla.

Texture thickens

pattern continues

:28.5

mf

f

:34

p

mf

pizz.

arco

pattern continues

:43 *Dancing*

p

mf

Vla.

mp *f* *mp*

8

Vla.

:57

p *f* *mf* *f*

Spinning rattle added

Vla.

1:07

ff *ff*

Vla.

1:16

f *f*

Vla.

mf

Vla.

1:32

Gradually change to sul pont

p *mp* *cresc.*

Light spinning sound

Pattern continues

Vla.

to ord.

ord

f

Vla. *ord*

p

1:48 *Spiccato* *ord.*

mp
pattern continues *cresc.*

2:00

f *mf*
Texture begins to thicken

2:04

f *ff* *f* *ord*

ff *f* *ord*

2:14

ff

Pattern continues to chords

Weaving sounds gradually fade;
Pitches remain

Vla.

mf

Vla.

f

Vla.

2:37

Start after 4th chord

Defiant

p

f

Vla.

Stoic

mf

f

rit.

2:52

p

Pattern continues, Eighth notes gradually fade.

p

Vla.

3:02

In Tempo

mf

f

mf

Pattern continues

mf

Vla.

p

mf

rit.

a piacere

f

mp

mf

Rubato a piacere to end of section

Gradually turns to quiet spinning sounds

mp

mf

Vla.

mp

p

mp

mf

mp

mf

Vla. *Freely Dreaming* **0:00** *(Rhythm approximate)*

mp *pp* *p* *mp*

Cue 1 ends at 3:56 Cue 2 Pitched Noise

Vla. **4:13** *sul pont.* *ord* *Wistful*

f *mp* *p* *mp* *p*

wind sounds

Vla. **:33** *Distant*

mf *mp* *mf* *mp* *p*

Low Hum

Vla. **5:10** little finger pressure

pp *overvibrate* Repeat ad lib *molto accel*, then *molto rit.*

Gong-like sounds

Vla. **5:27** *ord* *1/4 +/-* *To sul pont.* *sul pont.* *rit to ord.*

mp *p* *1/4* *1/4*

Gong-like sounds

Vla. **5:41** *Yearning*

p *mf* *mp* *mf*

Humming Sounds

Vla. *mp* *mf* *mp* *p*

Increasing noise

Repeat a piacere,
changing register *ad lib.*

Vla.

p *mf* *p* *mf*

Cue 2 ends at 6:50 Cue 3 Bobbin Rattle

Singing Recitative Style

Vla.

7:08

Increasingly dramatic
In Tempo

Vla.

f *mf* *p*

7:20 7:26

Vla.

mf

7:32

Spirited

Vla.

f ratchet sound

7:40

Lightly

Vla.

mf

Vla.

pattern continues

Vla. 7:48

mp *f* pattern continues

Vla.

mp *f*

Vla.

mf *f*

Vla.

mf *f*

Vla.

mf *f*

Vla. 8:16 *Determined*

ff *f*

Vla.

f *sul pont*

Vla.

8:32

ord

Vla.

1:47

ff

Vla.

To sul pont.

f

sul pont.

ord.

Vla.

8:48

sul pont.

ord.

ff

Vla.

Triumphant

To sul pont.

sul pont.

Vla.

ord.

To sul pont.

Wild!

sul pont.

9:02

cresc. possibile al fine

Penelope's Song

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Strong $\bullet = 120$ **:08.5**

Viola

Electronics

Weaving sounds

Denser weaving sounds

Pattern continues

Cue 1

:20

Texture thickens

pattern continues

:28.5

mf

f

:34

p

mf

pizz.

arco

pattern continues

:43 *Dancing*

mp

mf

mf *mp* *f* *mp*

p *f* *mf* *f*

:57

Spinning rattle added

ff *ff*

1:07

f *f*

1:16

mf

p *mp* *mf*

1:32

Light spinning sound

Pattern continues

f

Gradually change to sul pont

----- sul pont.

ord

p

1:48 *Spiccato*

mp

pattern continues

ord.

cresc.

2:00

f

mf

Texture begins to thicken

sul pont.

f

ff

ord.

sul pont.

ff

ord.

2:14

f

ff

Pattern continues to chords

f

Weaving sounds gradually fade;
Pitches remain

Musical staff system 1. Treble clef, key signature of two flats. Dynamics: *mf*.

Musical staff system 2. Treble clef, key signature of two flats. Dynamics: *f*.

Musical staff system 3. Treble clef, key signature of two flats. Time signature: 3/4. Time marker: 2:37. Dynamics: *p*, *f*. Annotation: Start after 4th chord. Expression: *Defiant*.

Musical staff system 4. Treble clef, key signature of two flats. Time signature: 3/4. Time marker: 2:52. Dynamics: *mf*, *f*, *p*. Expression: *Stoic*. Annotation: Pattern continues, Eighth notes gradually fade. Tempo marking: *rit.*

Musical staff system 5. Treble clef, key signature of two flats. Time signature: 3/4. Time marker: 3:02. Dynamics: *mf*, *f*, *mf*. Expression: *In Tempo*. Annotation: Pattern continues.

Musical staff system 6. Treble clef, key signature of one sharp. Time signature: 3/4. Dynamics: *p*, *mf*, *f*, *mp*, *mf*. Expression: *a piacere*. Annotation: Rubato a piacere to end of section. Gradually turns to quiet spinning sounds.

Musical staff system 7. Treble clef, key signature of one sharp. Dynamics: *mp*, *p*, *mp*, *mf*.

Freely Dreaming
(Rhythm approximate)

mp

pp

Cue 2

Cue 1 ends at 3:56

Pitched Noise

p < mp

4:15

sul pont.

ord

Wistful

f > mp

p

mp

wind sounds

Distant

mf

mp

mf

#8

mp

p

Low Hum

5:10

little finger pressure

Repeat ad lib
accel, then rit.

pp

overvibrate

Gong-like sounds

8vb

5:27

1/4 +/-

ord

p

Gong-like sounds

1/4↑

1/4↓

rit to ord

8vb

5:41

Yearning

p

mf

mp

mf

Humming Sounds

mp

mf

mp

p

Increasing noise

Repeat a piacere,
changing register *ad lib.*

Singing Recitative Style

p *mf* *p* *mf*

Cue 2 ends at 6:50 Cue 3 Bobbin Rattle

7:08

Increasingly dramatic

mf *mf*

In Tempo

In Tempo

f *mf* *p*

7:26

mf *mf*

7:32

Spirited

Spirited

f *f*

ratchet sound

7:40

Lightly

Lightly

mf *mf*

pattern continues

mf *mf*

pattern continues

7:48

mp f pattern continues

This system shows the beginning of a musical phrase at 7:48. The upper staff is in bass clef with a key signature of one flat. It starts with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic and a crescendo leading to a fortissimo (*f*) dynamic. The lower staff is in bass clef and contains a whole note chord. A box labeled "pattern continues" is placed over the lower staff.

mp f

This system continues the musical phrase. The upper staff features a series of eighth notes with slurs. The lower staff has a whole note chord. Dynamics *mp* and *f* are indicated with arrows pointing to the lower staff.

mf f

This system continues the musical phrase. The upper staff features a series of eighth notes with slurs. The lower staff has a whole note chord. Dynamics *mf* and *f* are indicated with arrows pointing to the lower staff.

mf f

This system continues the musical phrase. The upper staff features a series of eighth notes with slurs. The lower staff has a whole note chord. Dynamics *mf* and *f* are indicated with arrows pointing to the lower staff.

mf f

This system continues the musical phrase. The upper staff features a series of eighth notes with slurs. The lower staff has a whole note chord. Dynamics *mf* and *f* are indicated with arrows pointing to the lower staff.

8:16 Determined

ff

This system marks the beginning of a new section at 8:16, titled "Determined". The upper staff is in bass clef with a key signature of one flat. It starts with a fortissimo (*ff*) dynamic. The lower staff is in bass clef and contains a whole note chord.

sul pont f

This system continues the musical phrase. The upper staff features a series of eighth notes with slurs. The lower staff has a whole note chord. Dynamics *sul pont* and *f* are indicated with arrows pointing to the lower staff.

8:32

ord

8:38

ff

To sul pont. ----- sul pont.

f

ord.

8:48

ord.

ff

sul pont.

Triumphant

To sul pont. ----- sul pont.

ord.

To sul pont. -----

*Wild!
sul pont.*

9:02

cresc. possibile al fine -----