

JUDITH SHATIN

Sursum Corda

Solo Cello



Program Note

Sursum Corda is a versicle of Thanksgiving in the Catholic liturgy. The name is suggestive of the internal quiet of prayer, the external voice of joy and the mystery of both. The music develops from these themes, moving from the microtonal quiet breathing of the opening to an expressive surging motion, and moves back and forth between a vibrant calm and passionate ecstasy. *Sursum Corda* was composed for and first performed by cellist Erika Duke of the E.A.R. Unit at the Composer/Choreographer workshop in Durham, NC in 1981. It was presented as part of a circle dance choreographed by Clarice Marshall, with the dancer moving in flowing arcs around the performer. Ms. Duke gave the concert premiere on a program of Shatin's music at California Institute of the Arts. –JS

Performance Notes

The tempo indications serve as guidelines, rather than rigid limits. There are several passages where the duration is given in seconds, and again there is flexibility in interpretation.

Feathered beams do not indicate specific numbers of notes, but rather acceleration or ritard within the given duration.

Accidentals hold within register within the staff system.



Signifies quarter sharp

Concert Premiere Erika Duke Cal Arts Santa Clarita, CA 2/27/85
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Duration 9:00

Powerful ♩ = 69

mp *mf* *f*

pizz. arco

6 6

sul pont. ord.

ff *f*

Strong
jeté

mf

p *cresc.*

Tranquil
sul pont. ord.

ff *p sub.*

Passionate

ff sub. *mp* *f*

Accel. -----

intense, as fast as possible

5 5 5 5 5

The musical score is written in bass clef and consists of several staves. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It includes dynamic markings of *mp*, *mf*, and *f*, and articulations like *pizz.* and *arco*. There are two sixteenth-note runs marked with a '6'. The second staff continues with *ff* and *f* dynamics. The third staff is marked *Strong jeté* and *mf*. The fourth staff has *p* and *cresc.* markings. The fifth staff is marked *Tranquil* and includes *ff* and *p sub.* dynamics. The sixth staff has *mf*, *p*, and *mp* dynamics. The seventh staff is marked *Passionate* and includes *ff sub.*, *mp*, and *f* dynamics, ending with an *Accel.* marking. The eighth staff is marked *intense, as fast as possible* and features five groups of sixteenth-note runs, each marked with a '5'.

A tempo IV. *dolce*

sub. *p* *mf* 3 *f* 5 *mp* *p*

f sub. 3 *mp* *mf*

f *mf* 5:4 6

f *mf* *ff* (arco)

p sub. 3 3

mf *p*

mp *mf* *mp* *mf* 3

Faster
Violently

p *ff* sub. 6 3 3 3

Accel. ----- *intense, as fast as possible*

f 5 5 5 5

Calm

5 *f* *p sub.* *mp* 3 5:4 3

Surging

3 6 3 3

mf *f*

mf *f* 6 3 6 6

L.H. pizz. + + + + + + + +

mf *ff* arco

LH pizz. arco LH pizz. +

arco 3 3 3 3 *cresc.*

3 3 *ff* *f* *mf*

3 3 *cresc.* 3 *ff*

