

Austin Ali

JANUARY 2021

For Solo Cello

Full Score



Ninth Planet
Editions

PERUSAL SCORE

Austin Ali

JANUARY 2021

For Solo Cello

(2021)

Full Score



Ninth Planet
Editions

For the hope found in the darkest of times.

PROGRAM NOTE

January 2021 tells the story of a Renaissance, a journey from death to rebirth. In the wake of the most recent global pandemic, I found myself at the nadir of my life in many ways. During the onset of the lockdowns, I moved out of my college apartment back to my hometown, spending the final months of my senior year of university in my bedroom. Festivals, tours, recitals, graduation ceremonies, end-of-year celebrations all disappeared. I began graduate school in that same bedroom, 1200 miles away from my classmates, learning and teaching via Zoom.

Outside that room, the nation reckoned with racial justice, a fraught election, a deadly insurrection, an impeachment, and an inauguration. The world felt the death toll of thousands per day—underscoring every aspect of life. I watched it all on a television screen.

Of course, many reading this will find something in common with this pandemic story. Something will resonate, connecting total strangers through disparate, yet shared experience. This piece taps into that resonance, a desire to connect, to hold a loved one or just to make eye contact with someone on the street. I took these things for granted in lockdown at home.

In January 2021, I felt the weight of everything—my isolation, the toll of the pandemic on my family, my grandfather ill with COVID-19 in the hospital, and me composing music with no performance dates in sight. However, the tide began to turn when I picked up a cello for the first time. I became electrified by the deep, rich harmonies the instrument could produce, resonating with the body of the instrument. I remembered what it was like not just to play or hear music—I *felt* the music.

January 2021 derives from improvisations I made on a cello during the darkest time of my life. The piece grows lighter and lighter, finding the feeling of hope I so desperately needed. After the Black Death, the Renaissance exploded in Europe. After the 1918 Pandemic, the Roaring Twenties sprung up in the United States. This piece represents that same hope that births from the darkest times.

Duration ca. 10 min.

JANUARY 2021

For Solo Cello

Austin Ali
(2021)

Adagio, Improvisatory ♩ = 60 barely audible entrance

Violoncello

5 non vib.

p dolente *pp legato e delicato*

10 *p* *ff* *p molto legato* sul tasto

14 rest LH on shoulder of instrument to pizz. *sopra voce*

19 *ord.* *mf*

24 Still Improvisatory ♩ = 63 poco vib. *f cantabile e deciso*

28 *accel.....*

32 **Marching Ahead** ♩ = 80

più f risoluto *sfz* rit.....

36 **accel.**..... **scratchy**

p *ff* *p* *ff* *p* *ff* *p* *fp* *ff*

Improvisatory ♩ = 63

40 **IV** *f dolce* *p* *sul tasto* + + + + + + +

44 *ord.* + + + + + + + *mf* *f*

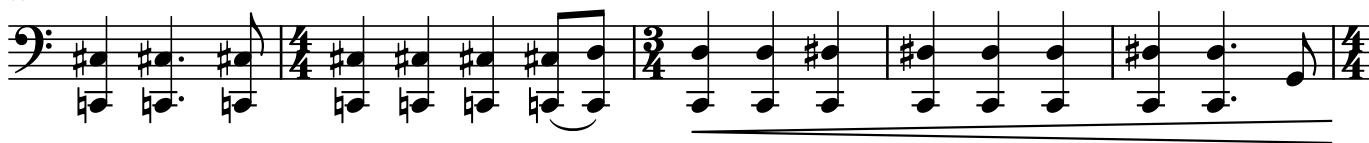
49 *p* *f sub. pesante*

53 *poco* *più f* *p*

57 *f molto legato*

61 ♩ = 76 *p*

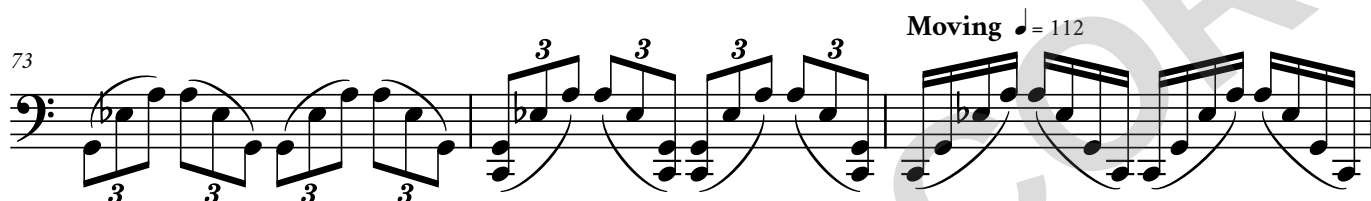
65



70



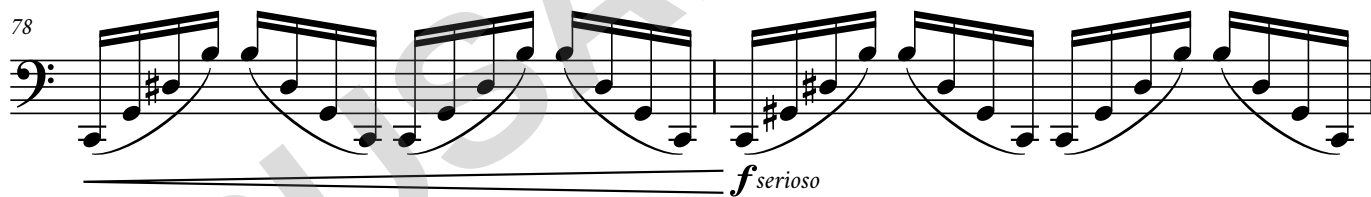
73



76



78



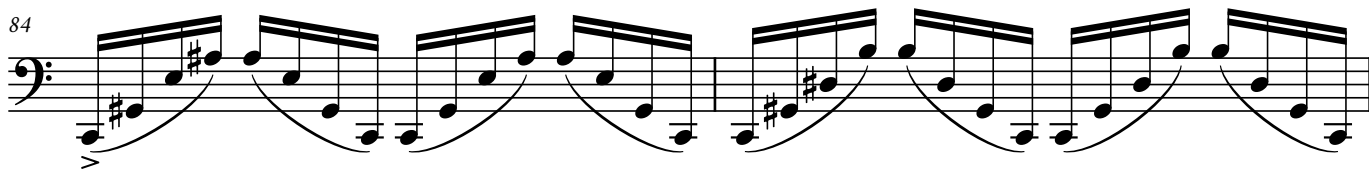
80

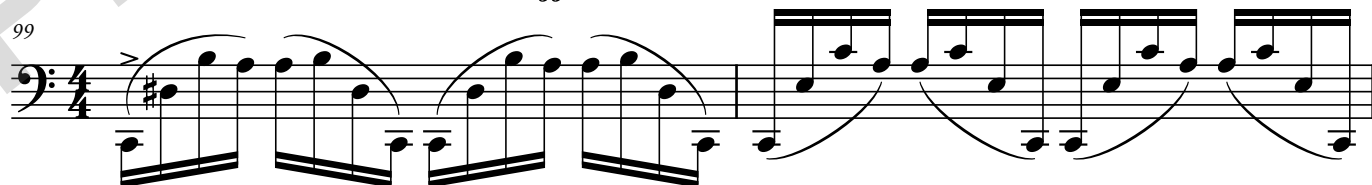
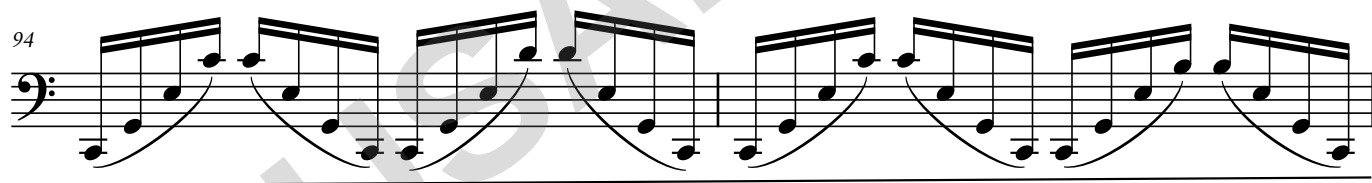
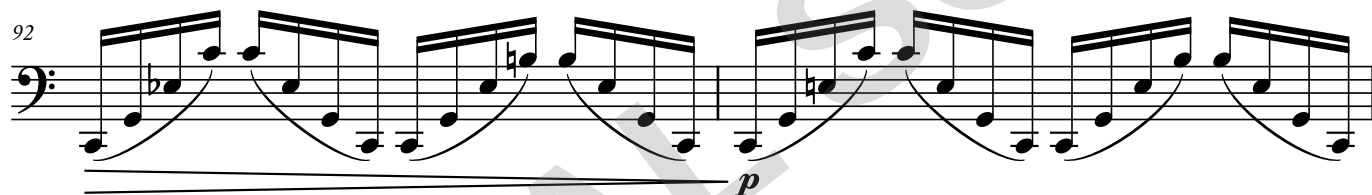
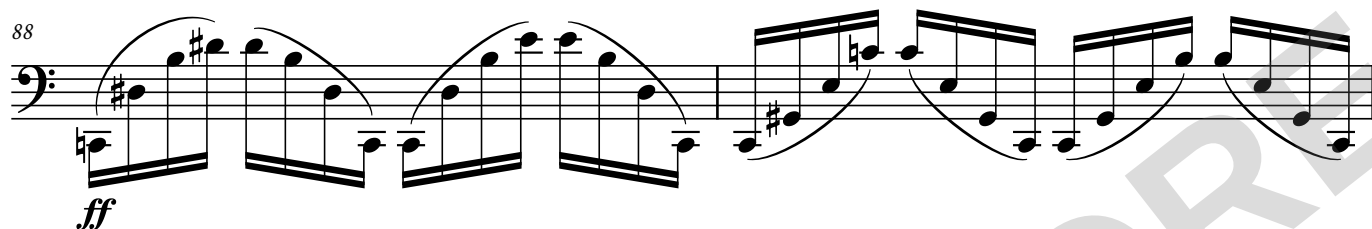


82



84





103

105

107

vib.

sfz $\rightarrow$ *p* $\rightarrow$

Come prima ♩ = 60

pizz.

p $\rightarrow$ niente

p

111

118

mf

Improvisatory

124

f

129

133

Detailed description of the musical score: The score is for a bassoon part, spanning measures 103 to 133. It begins with a series of eighth-note patterns in measures 103-105, followed by a vibrato (vib.) in measure 107. Measures 108-110 show a dynamic shift from *sfz* to *p*. Measure 111 marks the start of the 'Come prima' section at a tempo of 60 beats per minute, featuring a pizzicato (pizz.) instruction. Measures 112-117 continue with a piano (*p*) dynamic and a 'niente' (fading) instruction. Measure 118 introduces a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. Measures 119-123 lead into an 'Improvisatory' section starting at measure 124, which includes a forte (*f*) dynamic and a series of rapid sixteenth-note runs. Measures 125-133 continue with complex rhythmic patterns, including triplets and slurs, with various dynamic markings and accents.

136

139

Con brio ♩ = 138
arco

142

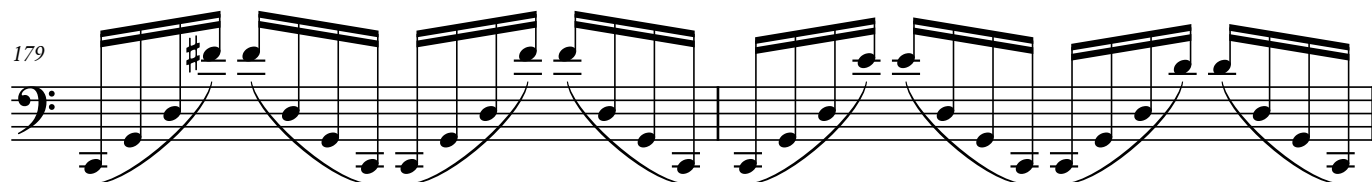
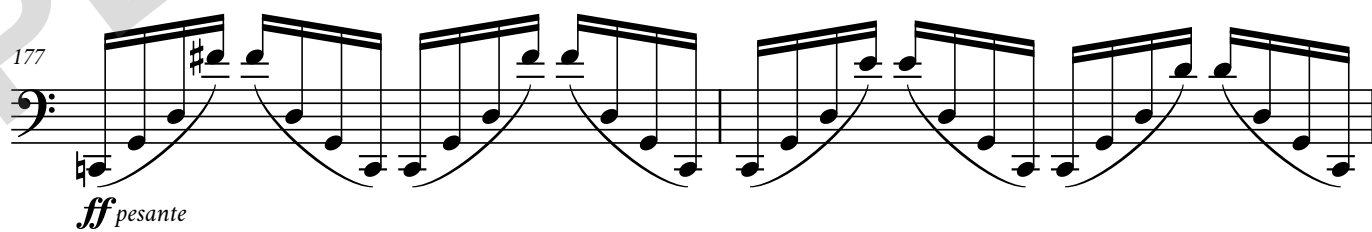
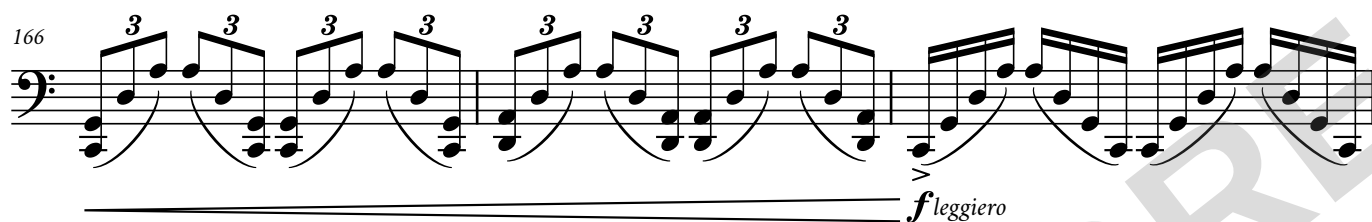
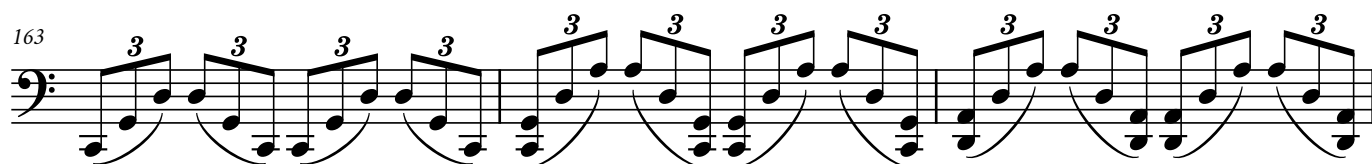
146

accel. ♩ = 144

151

156

160



181 *f*

183 *pp sub.*

185

187 *Piu Vivace Quasi Presto* ♩ = 160 *f*

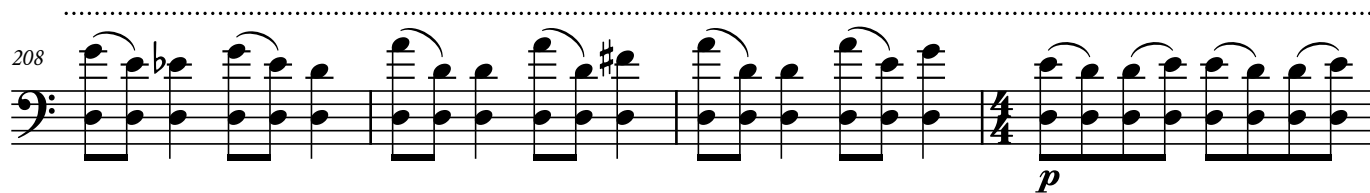
191

196

200 *accel. poco a poco.....*

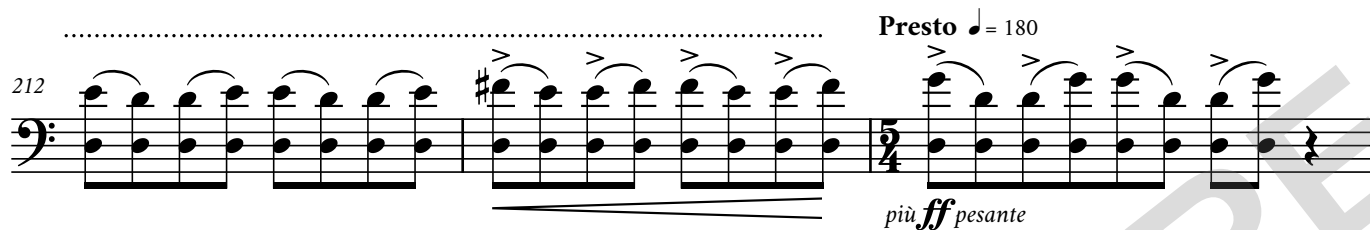
204

208



p

212



Presto ♩ = 180

più ff pesante

215



Triumphant ♩ = 72

rit.

sfz *sfz* *sfz* *sfz* *p*

lunga