

String Quartet No. 1  
"Kyrie Eleison"

C.M. Adams

My first string quartet titled *Kyrie Eleison* tells the story of a distraught man on the brink of disaster through 4 different parts. The first part is titled torment. Through a series of bad decisions and mistakes, our protagonist finds himself being tormented all throughout his life. He mourns quietly, but there is still more to come. The second part is titled wrath. It is here that our protagonist faces the full outcome of their wrong-doings and learns of their treachery. Here the strings are merciless and aggressive each strike is a blow to our protagonist, and even when a moment of stillness falls, that glimmer of hope for our hero is soon vanquished. Part three, titled mercy, opens with these waning chords in the violins symbolizing a sudden transition of utter hopelessness to mercy. The section continues and our protagonist pleads to be better. As part four approaches and enters, the man finally changes. He redeems himself, and he achieves some peace as the viola plays softly.

-C.M. Adams

c.a. 8'

*Dedicated to  
Zack and Ethan  
Roshaven*

# String Quartet No. 1 "Kyrie Eleison"

C.M. Adams (b. 2001)

## Part I: Torment Harrowing, ♩ = 60

highest note possible

Violin 1 *fff* *n*

Violin 2 *fff* bowed behind the bridge

Viola *fff* bowed behind the bridge

Violoncello *fff* bowed behind the bridge

Vln. 1 *pp* *f* slowly widening vibrato following dynamics

Vln. 2 *pp* *f* slowly widening vibrato following dynamics

Vla. *pp* *f* o.p. *pp* *f*

Vc. *pp* *f* manicly running finger nail up and down the strings sporadic bowing below the bridge

Vln. 1 *mp* *ppp* *pp* *mf* *p* sul pont.

Vln. 2 *mp* *ppp* *pp* *mf* *p* sul pont.

Vla. *mp* *ppp* *pp* *mf* *p* sul pont.

Vc. *mp* *ppp* *pp* *mf* *p* sul pont.



6

Agitated, ♩ = 80

32

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

pizz.

arco

pp

46

slowly widening vibrato following dynamics

Agitated, ♩ = 120

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

p

f

solo

tr

3

5

3

mp

molto vib

Sporadic bowing behind the bridge

slowly widening vibrato following dynamics

o.p.

pp

52

Vln. 2

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

mp

f

pizz.

arco

pp

f

arco

(behind the bridge)

3

pizz.

arco

f

58

Vln. 1 *p* *f* *ff*

Vln. 2 *p* *ff*

Vla. *p* *ff*

Vc. pizz. *mp* *ff* arco

61

Vln. 1 *gliss.*

Vln. 2 (behind bridge)

Vla. (behind bridge)

Vc.

66

Vln. 1 (behind bridge) *ppp*

Vln. 2 *ppp*

Vla. *ppp*

Vc. *ppp*

Part III: Mercy

8

Ethereal,  $\text{♩} = 70$

71

Vln. 1 *p*

Vln. 2 *p*

Vla. *p*

Vc. *p* arco

tremolo ad lib sul pont. *pp*

80

Vln. 1 *pp*

Vln. 2 *ppp*

Vla. *pp*

Vc.

ignoring strict time, repeat ad lib

82

Vln. 1 *molto accel.* *molto rit.* *più rit.* *molto accel.* *molto rit.*

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.



85

Vln. 1 *molto accel.* Cello

Vln. 2 cue Vln. 1 on beat 3 ord.

Vla. Cello ignoring strict time, repeat ad lib

Vc.

90

Vln. 1 Sporadic bowing behind the bridge Vln. 2

Vln. 2 o.p. p < f

Vla. *molto accel.* *molto rit.* *più rit.* *molto rit.* *molto accel.* *molto rit.* o.p. p f

Vc. Sporadic bowing behind the bridge p f

Part IV: Retribution

101 Reflective, ♩ = 60

Vln. 1 n ppp

Vln. 2 n ppp

Vla. rubato molto vib.

Vc. n ppp

109

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

*o.p.*

*ff*

*n*

*Sul C* . . . . .

*ff*

*f*

*ppp*

*o.p.*

*ff*

*n*

*solo*

Detailed description: This is a page of a musical score for a string quartet, specifically measures 109-112. The score is written for Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Viola (Vla.), and Violoncello (Vc.). The key signature has one flat (B-flat major or D minor), and the time signature is 4/4. The first violin and second violin parts play a melodic line with a long, sweeping slur across measures 109-112. The viola part plays a rhythmic accompaniment, starting with a 'Sul C' instruction. The cello part provides a bass line. Dynamic markings include 'o.p.' (overtone pedal) for the violins and cellos, 'ff' (fortissimo) for the violins and cellos, 'f' (forte) for the viola, and 'ppp' (pianississimo) for the viola. The first violin and second violin parts end with a 'n' (normal) dynamic marking. The score is numbered 109 at the beginning of the first measure.