

ETUDES and DUO ETUDES

Etudes for solo cello and Duo Etudes for cello and piano

Knut Vaage 2017

to John Ehde

Etude nr 1 (duration 3'10")

Etude nr 2 (duration 3'10")

Etude nr 3 (duration 7'45")

Duo Etude nr 1 (duration 5')

Duo Etude nr 2 (duration 3'30")

Videos at www.knutvaage.com (media, research project: composer-performer)



ABOUT THE SCORE:

The score gives the performers freedom to improvise, and adjust the length of each Senza misura bar

ACKNOWLEDGMENT:

Etudes and Duo Etudes are included in our research project at the Grieg Academy; *(un)settling Sites and Styles*. It has been developed with John Ehde (my partner in this project) Special effects have been developed and combined in new ways as a part of the research project on working sessions during autumn 2017. The *Etudes and Duo Etudes* are performed on concerts and workshops, and included as material in different ways in the following new pieces: *Svev*, *Hybrid 1*, *Hybrid Experience*, *Hybridization* and *Hybrid Spectacle* premiered at concerts and festivals from 2017 to 2020 by John and different ensembles

PERFORMANCE:

It is possible to perform each *Etude* separately, or in collection by individual choice

TOTAL DURATION: c. 23 min.

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Scores available from NB noter, Nasjonalbiblioteket/National Library of Norway
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More info: www.knutvaage.com

Solo cello

(7th of Nov. 2017)

Etude nr 1

metal-glass-wood

K. Vaage

Senza misura

① c. 30 sec. ② c. 30 sec. ③ c. 30 sec.

Sul tasto
Bow Sul pont.
Other info
Cello

metal piece of bow by frog
rhythmic strokes longside string

L.H. mute strings
use strings I - IV ad lib.

even gliss on
string w metal part

I
L.H. pizz

ad lib. sul p - sul t molto

change from
bow to glas
cont. LH. pizz.

like before
but with glass

L.H. mute strings
use strings I - IV ad lib.

(*mf*)

(*p*)

(*mf*)

(L.H. simultaneously
pizz. and
gliss. w thumb)

④ c. 30 sec. ⑤ c. 30 sec. ⑥ c. 30 sec.

S.t.
S.p.
Info
Vc.

ad lib. sul p - sul t molto

use bow, col legno batt, like bar 1

even gliss on
string w metal part

I
L.H. pizz

change from
glas to bow
cont. LH. pizz.
(like above)

L.H. mute strings
use strings I - IV ad lib.

ad lib. sul p - sul t molto

variate with I/II

(*p*)

(*mf*)

Solo cello

(23rd of Aug. 2017)

Etude nr 2

Scratch

K. Vaage

1 Senza misura c. 15 sec.

2 like before, but freely c. 60 sec. *cresc. e accel.*

Sul tasto: uneven transformation

Bow Sul pont.: hold bow horizontal with both hands, move very slow longwise strings

Other info: bow pressure (crush, light) → (crush, heavy)

Cello: crush (rhythm by tone appear/disappear unevenly) use strings I - IV ad lib.

(p) → *(mf)* → *sim. (espress ad lib.)*

3 fast → very slow c. 45 sec.

4 c. 20 sec.

5 uneven transformation c. 20 sec.

S.t.: fast → very slow

S.p.: hold bow horizontal with both hands

Info: bow pressure (crush, heavy) → (crush, light)

Vc.: crush (heavy/slowly) → crush (rhythm by tone appear/disappear unevenly)

f → *8vb (mp)* → *(p)* → *n*

Etude nr 3 bow variations

1 Senza misura c. 60 sec. 2 c. 45 sec. 3 c. 30 sec.

Sul tasto
Bow Sul pont.
Other info
Cello

light pressure ord pressure high pressure circular movements (sul t. - sul p.)

air pitch mute IV

p *p-f* *pp*

4 c. 30 sec. 5 c. 20 sec. A c. 10 sec.

S.t.
S.p.
Info
Vc.

flautando molto less pitch, air sound very light bow pressure

gradually to trem

f *pp*

mute all open IV open all prepare bow 2

(mute all strings, then gradually open one by one, starting with IV open)

2 c. 30 sec. 3 c. 30 sec. 4 c. 45 sec. 5 c. 45 sec.

Bow 2
Vc.

bow under strings (sul p.) quasi organ sound (open strings) bow left side of bridge (open strings sim.) bow right side of bridge

p *pp* *p*

circular movements (like above)

(7th of Nov. 2017)

Duo Etude nr 1

K. Vaage

Senza misura

Cello

c. 10 sec. c. 20 sec. c. 30 sec. c. 45 sec. c. 15 sec.

② mute string, hoarse overtone ad lib. free bowing, very light pressure
 ○ transform into- - - - - ○ ○ ○

③ like above but L.H. rapidly ad lib. searching for overtones (sul p. ad lib.)

④ like above but change strings ad lib.

⑤ brush strings longwise firmly up an down (M.M. c. 132) (add string) I/II

ppp *(mp)* *pp* *f*

measured tremolo on soundboard
 tap w. both hands/fingertips
 (quasi 16 notes, M.M. ca. 132)

(p) dynamic ad lib, (but will not be loud)

R.H. sidwise intense trem. on sound board
 L.H. add crosswise trem. on medium strings
 (quasi 16 notes rhythm continues)

Red.

A

Vc.

c. 30 sec. c. 30 sec. c. 45 sec. c. 30 sec. c. 30 sec.

② secco, sul t. (short brush, crush) behind bridge punta d.a.

③ ord. (still b.b.)

④ transform by changing strings gradually to IV

⑤ bow on body firmly up/down

pp *mf* *pp* *f* *(p)*

trem. on soundboard (like the beginning)

R.H. intense crosswise trem. on strings
 L.H. add pizz like above (with big space between)

gradually downwards both hands
 keep steady effects/rhythm

medium low trem. on strings

small break in trem to make pizz. on medium low string, pitch ad lib. (bell like - big space between each pizz.)

optional variate "bell" sound but keep space between

lowest palm cluster (like tam-tam)

Red.

(24th of Nov. 2017)

Duo Etude nr 2

dropping

K. Vaage

prepare cello w e.g. a ruler between strings close to neck

Senza misura c. 10 sec. c. 15 sec. c. 10 sec. c. 15 sec. c. 10 sec. **A** c. 15 sec.

react to piano-effect:
L.H. mute strings
drop bow, col legno
--> L.H. pizz ad lib

(react to piano-effect:)
ad lib dropbow col legno/arco
L.H. pizz ad lib

on open strings:
flip the ruler to make a "buzz"
vary with L.H. mute strings:
R.H. flat: strokes on strings/body

secco molto sempre
make pitch change by
movements from sul p--sul t

drop plastic ball on medium strings 3x
drop big marble on medium strings 3x
drop super-ball on medium strings 3x

(optional: use plastic bottle instead of ball)

c. 10 sec. c. 60 sec. c. 30 sec. c. 30 sec. c. 30 sec.

improvise on given elements
col legno on body, fingerboard etc (super secco)
continue improvisation (react to piano pedal change)
on strings behind neck

drop balls ad lib.
improvise on given elements
marble roll on pegs
roll balls on string (one at a time)
trill all small balls to highest strings

f (*mp*) *f* (*mp*) *Red.*