

# Nattsang

## *Night Song*

for cello solo

Knut Vaage

2019  
(version 18.06.2019)

to John Ehde

Commisioned by Bjørn Hernes

Supported by **Komponistenes vederlagsfond**

#### ABOUT THE SCORE:

Accidentals apply through the whole bar within the same octave  
Trills are chromatic if not marked. Tremolos are unmeasured if not marked  
The performer is free to decide the length of each Senza misura bar  
(When seconds are indicated, they are suggestions rather than instructions)  
The cello must be treated electronically like explained on next page

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENT:

*Nattsang* was premiered at the Art and Nature-festival "JORD" in Faxe in Denmark 10th of May 2019 by John Ehde. The piece was performed in the Permatopia forest late evening in the darkness

The Nightingale is quoted, and the time indicated in the score referring to the following youtube video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3F8hXbQJF1c>

The British cellist Beatrice Harrison (1892-1965) is known for her garden recording, accompanied by a nightingale: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iOUb48W1\\_90](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iOUb48W1_90)

In this recording from 1927 she plays Dvorak while a nightingale sings. She was also famous for premiering all of Delius' cello music

In *Nattsang* Delius cello concerto (solo part) bar 231-241 and bar 200-211 is quoted and recorded on a loop ped. Finally a nightingale fragment is looped.

*Nattsang* is included in our research project at the Grieg Academy; "(un)settling Sites and Styles. Performers in Search of New Expressive Means". It has been developed with John Ehde (my partner in this project).

Many thanks to John Ehde and Bjørn Hernes

DURATION: c. 21 min.

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More info: [www.knutvaage.com](http://www.knutvaage.com)

Extra:

Bird Whistle (add a small amount of water)

Singing Bowl

Technical setup:

A loop pedal with minimum 3 memory banks

Fishman contact microphone (or similar) connected to the loop pedal

A transducer microphone adapted for the cello

Optional additional amplification

Explanation:

From output of loop pedal into a transducer microphone carefully pressed between the bridge and the cello body.

Result: the sound from the loop ped will be amplified by getting resonance from the cello body.

And at the same time the sound from the cello will be enlarged by being circulated back to the cello.

If the volume is to soft on the outdoor location, additional amplification equipment may be used.

If so, use a DPA, or a microphone on stand in front of the bridge, and a suitable amplification equipment for the location



# Nattsang

for solo cello

*Wolfgang V. V. V.*

## Senza misura

Bird Whistle  
c. 10 sec. ② ca 3 x ③ ca 3 x ④ ca 3 x

circular movements (sul t. - sul p.)  
(circular bow sim. ad lib.)

Put down Bird Wh. while playing ord.

*pp* *mp* dynamics ad lib. (non dim.) *p*

## Fragment 1

A (I skovens dybe stille ro)  
Misurata (♩ = c. 72)

Misterioso

Bocca chiuso  
sing falsetto

*pp*

Trills are chrom.  
if not marked

IV

s.t.

*mfp* *dolce*

## Fragment 2

11

*m*

ord.  
3

*p*

15

B

*pp*

s.t.

*m* *m*

*dolce*

20 *Fragment 3* C

ord. *p sub.* s.p. s.t. *dolce*

24 *pp*

*m* *m*

(Nightingale 1) D (8" cue for video)

♩ = c. 120 play

ord. *pp* *f* ord. c.l. LH pizz. x on stem = bow longwise on string s.p. let ring

♩ = ♩

31 *sonore* *ff* *secco percussive* *s.t. poco scratch* **Senza misura** c. 10 sec. (circular bow)

*mp* continue playing while turning page w. L.H. (open string)

**E** **Tempo I** (♩ = c. 72)  
*Misterioso*

sing falsetto **pp**

s.t. ord. # **p dolce** **fp** **dolce**

**F** **Tempo I** ord.

♩ = c. 120 (play)

(muted) ord. s.p. ord. s.p. **f** **sonore** **p sost.**

x = longwise bow (LH pizz.)

scratchy perc./ rapid rep.

**G** **Senza misura** c. 8 sec. ♩ = c. 120

(32") s.p. (poco) **f** **poco scratch** **percussive**

ord. (LH pizz.)

**H** **Tempo I** (♩ = c. 72)  
*Misterioso*

sing falsetto **pp**

ord. s.p. ord. **p** **dolce**

scratchy perc./ rapid rep. secco

**I** **Tempo I** ord.

♩ = c. 120 play s.p. c.l. **f**

ord. **f**

**I** ord. c.l. ord. s.p. **J** Senza misura c. 10 sec.

scratchy perc./rapid rep. secco scratchy ord. IV *p*

**2** Bird Whistle ca 3 x **3** ca 3 x **4** ca 3 x

(circular bow sim. ad lib.) Put down Bird Wh. while playing ord. (non dim.) *p*

*mp* dynamics ad lib.

**K** Fragment 4 Tempo I (♩ = c. 72) **L** s.p. (s.p.) ord. ord.

x = longwise bow (50") s.p. (s.p.) ord. ord. secco *f* *fp* *f*

**M** Fragment 5 Tempo I (♩ = c. 72) sing falsetto *pp* (play) *f*

(on string) sonore s.p. c.l. c.l. ord. s.p. s.t. m. ord. *pp* *f* *dolce*

**N** (1') c.l. c.l. (ord.) s.t. **O** Tempo I Senza misura c. 10 sec.

ord. ord. s.t. *ff* *sonore* (open) *p sost.*

x = longwise bow *p sost.* turn page

Fragment 6

85 Misurata (♩ = c. 72)

♩ = c. 120

**P** (1'10") (muted)

s.p. ord. ord. ord., jeté c.l., jeté

*f* sonore *secco*

ord. *mp* *f*

Fragment 7

90

Tempo I (♩ = c. 72)

**Q**

poco scratch

ord. *ff* percussive *mp* c.l. IV ord. s.p.

*p*

Misterioso

94

sing falsetto

*pp*

s.t. *dolce* m

98

♩ = c. 120

**R** (1'24") (muted)

s.p. ord. *f* sonore *add light crush*

*f*

102

ord. s.p. **S** Senza misura c. 10 sec.

scratchy perc./ rapid rep. ord.

*p*



Fragment 8

106 **Tempo I** ♩ = c. 120 **T** (1'40")

add light crush  
mp ff  
f

110 **Tempo I** **U** Fragment 9

poco scratch  
percussive  
x = longwise bow  
muted mp  
p sost.

114 **Cadenza Senza misura** **Misurata** (♩ = c. 120)

(max. harmonics) s.p. molto  
ord.  
f fff pp f

**V** (2'07")

poco crush  
ord. s.p.  
s.p. molto  
ff secco molto percussive  
f

123 **W** **Senza misura**

x = longwise bow  
ord.  
scratchy perc./rapid rep.  
mp  
p  
turn page

Fragment 10  
Tempo I

♩ = c. 120

(2'20")

126

♩ = c. 120

(2'20")

X

ord.

spicc.

s.p.

f

ord.

s.p.

f

3

131

ord.

scratch

s.p.

ord.

c.i.

3

3

3

ff percussive

mp

muted

Fragment 11  
Tempo I

Senza misura  
c. 10 sec.  
ord. — s.p. molto

Y

Z

ord.

s.p.

pp

mf

p

ord.

s.p.

A1

(s.p.) in this part: fluctuate between s.p. and ord. ad lib on all tremolos

ord.

fp

(LH pizz.)

p

fp

mf

B1

(s.p.)

mf

fp

fp

fp

148

ord. **C1** (s.p.) *mf* *p* *fp* *mp* *p* ord. III

152

*fp* *rit.*

**D1** **A tempo** ord.<sub>3</sub> s.p. ord.

*p* 3 *p* 3

161

**E1** **Senza misura** (Delius quote 1)  
(circular bow) **Allegramente** (♩ = c. 88)  
c. 10 sec.

LOOP 1

Playback pre-recorded loop  
Blend with live cello by volumped

166

(play)

(loop)

Nattsang

12

\*) follow pulse of the loop,  
but each theme not in sync

Cadenza

**F1** Senza misura

171 (play) *Fragment 11*  
\*) ord.

(loop) (Loop continues)

176 (max. harmonics) s.p. molto

ord. (circular bow) c. 10 sec.

**G1** *Fragment 13* *Allegramente* (♩ = c. 88) ord.

*f* *fff* *p*

181 (IV)

*Senza misura Misurata* (♩ = c. 88) **H1**  
(circular bow) c. 10 sec.

*Fragment 14* ord. (IV)

*p*

187

Cadenza

**I1** Senza misura

crush

*f* *fff*

192 ord. *p* change strings ad lib. (while circling) **J1** **Allegramente** (♩ = c. 88) ord. *pp* STOP LOOP

197 *Calmly* *mf dolce* (keep both voices sustained)

204

212 Senza misura s.t. *pp* c. 10 sec. **K1** **Lento** switch to LOOP 2

**L1** Senza misura c. 10 sec. ② Bird Whistle ca 3 x ③ Put down Bird Wh. while playing *pp* *mp* dynamics ad lib.

(Delius quote 2) **M1** **Con moto tranquillo** (♩ = c. 60) (circular bow) LOOP 2 Playback pre-recorded loop Blend with live cello by volumped turn page

225 (play)

ca. starting point for Nightingale 2

(Nightingale 2)

**N1** (8" cue for video)  $\bullet = c. 120$

*f* x = longwise bow

*sonore*

*ff* *secco percussive*

(Loop continues)

**Senza misura** c. 10 sec. (circular bow) **O1** **Misurata** ( $\bullet = c. 120$ ) (20") *8<sup>va</sup>*

IV  $\otimes$  *mp*

*f* x = longwise bow

*sonore*

*scratchy perc./ rapid rep.*

(32") **Senza misura** c. 10 sec. (circular bow) **P1** **Misurata** ( $\bullet = c. 120$ ) s.p. (poco)

III  $\otimes$  *mp*

*percussive*

241

s.p.

scratchy perc./ rapid rep.

secco

**Senza misura**

c. 10 sec. (circular bow)

**Q1 Misurata** (♩ = c. 120)

(1') c.l. c.l. (ord.)

**f** x = longwise bow

245

s.t.

sonore

ord.

**ff**

3 3 3

**Senza misura**

c. 10 sec. (circular bow)

**p**

turn page

**R1 Misurata** (♩ = c. 120)  
 (1'10") s.p. (muted) ord. poco scratch  
 ord. c.l. ord. ord., jeté c.l., jeté ord. ff percussive mp  
*f sonore* *secco*

\*) Mute string, hoarse overtone ad lib.; free bowing, very light pressure  
 L.H. rapidly ad lib., searching for overtones (sul p. ad lib.)

**S1 Misurata** (♩ = c. 120)  
 (1'24") (muted) add light crush ord.  
 \*) IV c. 10 sec. ord. s.p. *f sonore* mp  
 251

**T1 Misurata** (♩ = c. 120)  
 (1'40") s.p. (overtones like above) c. 10 sec. III  
 255 *scratchy perc./ rapid rep.* (mp) mp

**Senza misura** (overtones like above) c. 10 sec. II  
 259 add light crush poco scratch x = longwise bow *ff* percussive (mp)

**U1 Misurata** (♩ = c. 120) (loop for ending with singing bowl)  
 \*) (2'07") s.p. poco crush ord. s.p. s.p. molto *f* *secco molto percussive*  
*f sonore* *sonore*

\*) Material (Nightingale fragment) to be pre-recorder for LOOP 3



(loop for ending continues) (like above, but change strings ad lib.)

266 *ord. jeté* *s.p. muted* *x = longwise bow* **Senza misura** c. 20 sec.

(marcato at end of jeté by pressing bow on string) *scratchy perc./rapid rep.* (*mp*)

\*) When recording the loop, make a ca. 7 sec. long rest before stopping the loop. During playback, the loop will include the rest before each repetition

**V1 Misurata** (♩ = c. 120)

(2'20") *f* *ord.* *spicc.* *c.l.* *ord.*

274 *scratch s.p.* *mute* **W1 Senza misura Lento** (♩ = c. 60) *adapt to phrase* *s.t.*

*ff percussive* *mp* *pp*

STOP LOOP

278 (s.t.) *mp dolce* (keep both voices sustained)

284 **Morendo**

**X1 Senza misura** c. 10 sec. **SINGING BOWL** c. 20 sec. (circle around edge of bowl) c. 5 sec. (Nightingale fragment) c. 1 min.

(circular bow) *p* **LOOP 3** *Playback pre-recorded loop Blend with live cello by volumped. if needed* **STOP LOOP AND CIRCLING** (directly after the fragment)

Smooth transition between Cello and Singing Bowl. Overlap

bowl, let ring