

MY DESERT, MY ROSE

String Quartet by Aleksandra Vrebalov (2015)

For Fifty for the Future: The Kronos Learning Repertoire

Performance Notes:

- Keep the bow constantly active and exploratory, especially on held notes (apply, for example, circular movement, slight inflections, scratches, distortions, spiccato, tremolo, sul pont).
- Hold on suggested fermatas freely, as well as on other pitches of your choice.
- Patterns do not have to be played in their entirety (e.g. it is fine to move on to the new material without finishing the previous one).
- With each repetition of a pattern, feel free to vary the material: speed up, play pitches in higher octaves, repeat pitches, and align rhythmically with others.
- All repetitive, fast patterns after **T** might be distorted and scratchy due to required tempo: pitch precision should be secondary to keeping the pace up.
- Suggested duration of the piece is a little over 7 minutes. However, the timing should be free and could go over the suggested length, especially in the opening segment (ending at **G**).

Structure:

- Free individual patterns up to **G**
- From **O** until **S**, polymetric structure, follow first violin
- At **S**, all aligned metrically
- From **T** until **U**, cello follows its own meter
- From **U** until the end, all aligned

General Direction: From meditative, open, and rhapsodic to rapturous, driven, and trancelike, both in tempo and character.

General Dynamic: Buildup from soft to loud during the opening segment (ending at **G**), stay loud until the end (with the exception of subito piano at **N**).

Direction of color and sound: From warm and smooth to scratchy, wild, and distorted (most noticeable change at **T**).