א יידישע פאנטאזיע

A Yiddish Fantasy For Solo Cello

Talia Berenbaum

Notes from the Composer

A Yiddish Fantasy is a piece about community. It combines secular and liturgical Ashkenazi Jewish music into a piece in four movements, played atacca. The first and fourth movements make use of an originally composed "Nigun," or a wordless cantorial song. Nigunim (plural of nigun) are sometimes improvised by a cantor, and sometimes precomposed. The second movement quotes "Ta'amim," or trope in English. Trope are little markings which correspond to a certain musical phrase, usually just a few notes, that tell you how to chant a certain prayer or biblical excerpt. The third movement makes use of a klezmer dance groove called a "bulgar." All of these areas of Jewish music are brought together into one piece to create a piece which draws not just on Jewish music in a vacuum, but the context for them as well. All of the music referenced in this piece serves some sort of communal function, from dance to prayer.

Note: There are four different versions of Mov. 4 in order to accomodate voice type.

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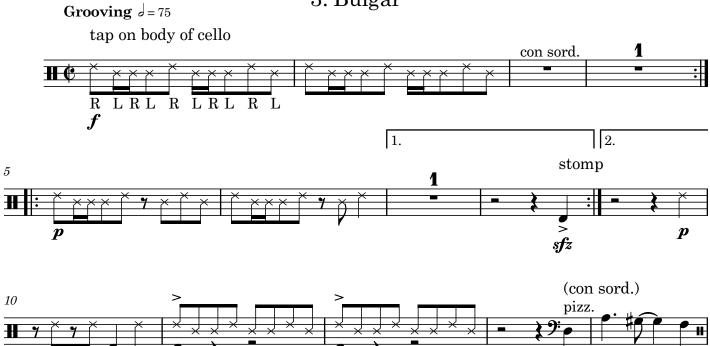
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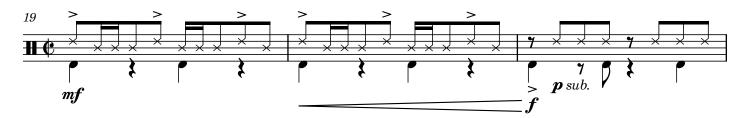


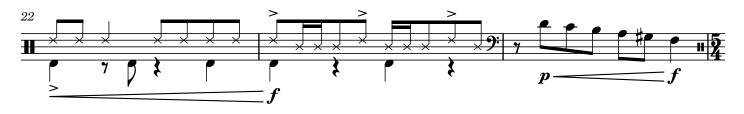






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Violoncello

