

Vahan Luder Artinian

Sententia* for Viola

Op. 319

March 2019

*The 'sententia' is a musical form I originated in 2013. The word 'sententia' (plural: 'sententiae') is the Latin for the word 'sentence'. The Oxford dictionary defines 'sententia' as "A pithy or memorable saying, a maxim, an aphorism, an epigram; a thought, a reflection." For me a 'sententia' is a musical utterance of a thought that is complete in itself, like a sentence. It is also an utterance that finds no need for any elaboration or development. Hence my sententiae are short pieces that usually come in sets - the current sententia being an exception. In sets of sententiae, the individual sententiae are often related to each other in some way. For sets of sententiae also, it is expected that performers observe a short pause between one sententia and the next and that the audience refrain from clapping during those pauses.

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♩ = 90

Viola

3

3

3

3

5

3

8

rit.

The musical score is written for Viola in 3/4 time, with a tempo marking of ♩ = 90. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The score is divided into three systems. The first system contains measures 1-4, the second system contains measures 5-7, and the third system contains measures 8-10. The piece concludes with a double bar line and a fermata over the final note. Measure numbers 3, 5, and 8 are indicated at the start of their respective measures. A 'rit.' (ritardando) marking is placed above the eighth measure, followed by five dotted lines. Triangles are placed under the eighth and ninth measures of the third system, indicating a crescendo or decrescendo.