

Vahan Luder Artinian

Two Sententiae* for String Quartet

Op. 321

June 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 come in sets and are often related to each other in some way. Just like between the movements of a multi-movement piece, I would expect that performers observe a short pause between one sententia and the next. And I would expect that there be no clapping from audiences.

String Quartet Sentenia Op. 321, No. 1

Vahan Luder Artinian

$\text{♩} = 112$

Violin I
Violin II
Viola
Violoncello

pizz.
arco
pizz.

6

pizz.
arco

10

molto rit.

Sententia for String Quartet Op. 321, No. 2

Vahan Luder Artinian

$\text{♩} = 100$

Violin I

Violin II

Viola

Violoncello

pizz.

pizz.

17

20

arco

arco

This musical score is for a four-part setting, likely a chorale or a similar ensemble piece. It consists of two measures, 23 and 24, written for four staves. The top two staves are in treble clef, and the bottom two are in bass clef. The key signature is one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The music features a mix of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some staccato markings. The first measure (23) shows a melodic line in the soprano and alto parts, while the tenor and bass parts provide harmonic support. The second measure (24) continues the melodic development, with the soprano and alto parts moving in parallel motion. The piece concludes with a final cadence in the second measure.