

The River Merchant's Wife

Thomas DeLio

1971

Instrumentation

violin
viola
cello

Duration = approximately 3 minutes.

Instructions

Whole notes take on the duration of an entire measure.

All bow changes must be imperceptible and staggered.

All simultaneous attacks and releases must be precisely synchronized.

n = *normale*

sp = *sup ponticello*

sp → n = gradually move from *sul ponticello* to *normale*

© 1971 Thomas DeLio

Ezra Pound
The River-Merchant's Wife

While my hair was still cut straight across my forehead
I played about the front gate, pulling flowers.
You came by on bamboo stilts, playing horse,
You walked about my seat, playing with blue plums.
And we went on living in the village of Chokan:
Two small people, without dislike or suspicion.
At fourteen I married My Lord you.
I never laughed, being bashful.
Lowering my head, I looked at the wall.
Called to, a thousand times, I never looked back.

At fifteen I stopped scowling,
I desired my dust to be mingled with yours
Forever and forever and forever.
Why should I climb the look out?

At sixteen you departed,
You went into far Ku-to-en, by the river of swirling eddies,
And you have been gone five months.
The monkeys make sorrowful noise overhead.

You dragged your feet when you went out.
By the gate now, the moss is grown, the different mosses,
Too deep to clear them away!
The leaves fall early this autumn, in wind.
The paired butterflies are already yellow with August
Over the grass in the West garden;
They hurt me. I grow older.
If you are coming down through the narrows of the river Kiang,
Please let me know beforehand,
And I will come out to meet you
As far as Cho-fu-Sa.

Note: This is Pound's translation of a poem by the 8th century poet Li T'ai-Po -- such a free translation as to be a very different poem.

The River Merchant's Wife

Thomas DeLio

violin $\text{♩} = 60$

ppp
con sord.
senza vib.

sempre

sp → n

viola

ppp
con sord.
senza vib.

sempre

sp → n

cello

ppp
con sord.
senza vib.

sempre

sp → n

violin

ppp
con sord.
senza vib.

sempre

sp → n

viola

ppp
con sord.
senza vib.

sempre

sp → n

cello

ppp
con sord.
senza vib.

sempre

sp → n

8
25
4
32
4
20
4
14
4



10
14
4
10
4
8
4
10
4
8
4
10
4
8
4
sp -> n
sp -> n
sp -> n