

Max Charles Davies

Tiny String Octet

SCORE

Max Charles Davies

Tiny String Quintet

Ensemble:
4 Violins
2 Violas
Violoncello
Double bass

Duration: c. 6 minutes

- I. **Steady but driving**
- II. **Quite quick**
- III. **Slow**
- IV. **Fast and driving, but steady**

Programme Note

This work is part of my *Tiny* series: little musical portraits of my two-year-old son, Sebastian. All the works in the growing series use the same material, but it is reworked in an idiomatic way for different combinations of instruments.

The title references, in addition to the 'tiny' subject, the fact that it does contain all the elements of a late-classical-period multi-movement work in miniature: a sonata form first movement, a scherzo and trio, a slow movement, and a sonata-rondo finale. So, it is quite literally a *Tiny Sonata*, about a tiny person. These bite-sized dimensions give a little flavour of what (at least this composer's) contemporary classical music is all about, without being too long or intimidating, which will hopefully appeal to any audience.

For Sebastian
Tiny String Octet

Max Charles Davies
(2016)

Steady but driving $\text{♩} = 72$

I

A

Musical score for the first system (measures 1-4). The score includes parts for Violin I, Violin II, Violin III, Violin IV, Viola I, Viola II, Violoncello, and Double Bass. The tempo is 'Steady but driving' with a quarter note equal to 72 beats per minute. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The first measure is marked with a box 'A'. Dynamics include *f*, *mf*, *ff*, *p*, *mf sub.*, *arco*, *pizz.*, and *ord.*. Performance instructions include *sul pont.*, *ord. sul pont.*, and *ord.*. The section ends with a double bar line and repeat sign.

Musical score for the second system (measures 5-8). The score includes parts for Violin I, Violin II, Violin III, Violin IV, Viola I, Viola II, Violoncello, and Double Bass. The tempo is 'Steady but driving' with a quarter note equal to 72 beats per minute. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The section begins with a double bar line and repeat sign, followed by a measure rest of 5. Dynamics include *f*, *mf*, *ff*, *mf sub.*, *f*, *ord.*, and *ord. sul pont.*. Performance instructions include *ord.*, *ord. sul pont.*, and *ord.*. The section ends with a double bar line and repeat sign.

B

9

Vln. I *p dolce*

Vln. II *mf dolce*

Vln. III *p dolce*

Vln. IV *mf dolce*

Vla. I *p dolce*

Vla. II

Vc. *p dolce*

Db. *p dolce*

222

sull pont.

ff *pp*

ord.

p



C

14

Vln. I *f molto espr.* *ff* *mf* *pp* *f* *p*

Vln. II *f* *p*

Vln. III *f molto espr.* *ff* *mf* *pp* *f* *p*

Vln. IV *f* *f* *p*

Vla. I *f molto espr.* *ff* *p* *mf* *f* *p*

Vla. II *p* *mf* *f* *p*

Vc. *f molto espr.* *ff* *p sub.* *f* *p*

Db. *f* *p* *f sub.* *f* *p*

pizz.

arco

pizz.

arco

pizz.

arco

pizz.

arco

19

Vln. I arco *sffz p sub.* \triangleleft *f* *sffz p sub.* \triangleleft *f*

Vln. II *f sub.* *f* pizz. arco *p* \triangleleft *f*

Vln. III arco *sffz p sub.* \triangleleft *f* *sffz p sub.* \triangleleft *f*

Vln. IV arco *f sub.* *f* pizz. arco *p* \triangleleft *f*

Vla. I *mp* \triangleleft *p* *sffz p sub.* \triangleleft *f* pizz. *sffz p sub.* \triangleleft *f* *f*

Vla. II *mp* \triangleleft *p* pizz. *f* arco *p* \triangleleft *f*

Vc. *sffz p sub.* \triangleleft *f* *sffz p sub.* \triangleleft *f* *f*

Db. pizz. *sffz p sub.* \triangleleft *f* *sffz p sub.* \triangleleft *f* arco *f*

25

Vln. I *p sub. dolce* \triangleleft

Vln. II *p* *f* \triangleleft *ff*

Vln. III pizz. arco *ff* *p sub.* *f* *p sub. dolce* \triangleleft

Vln. IV pizz. arco *ff* *mf*

Vla. I arco *p sub.* *f* *p sub. dolce* \triangleleft

Vla. II *mf* arco *f*

Vc. pizz. arco *ff* *p sub.* *f* *p*

Db. pizz. arco *ff* *p dolce* \triangleleft *f* pizz.

D

29

Vln. I *ff* *pizz.* *arco* *p sub.* *f* *p sub.* *mf* *p*

Vln. II *pizz.* *arco* *p* *sfz* *p sub.* *f* *p*

Vln. III *ff* *pizz.* *arco* *p sub.* *f* *f* *p*

Vln. IV *f* *ff* *arco* *p* *sfz* *p sub.* *f* *p sub.*

Vla. I *ff* *pizz.* *arco* *p sub.* *f* *f* *p*

Vla. II *f* *ff* *arco* *p* *sfz* *p sub.* *f* *p sub.*

Vc. *ff* *pizz.* *arco* *p sub.* *f* *sfz* *p sub.* *f* *mf* *p*

Db. *ff* *mf* *p*

E

34

Vln. I *mf* *sfz* *f* *sul pont.*

Vln. II *p* *sfz* *mf* *ff* *mf* *ff* *mf* *ff*

Vln. III *p* *sfz* *p sub.* *sfz* *f* *mf* *ff* *mf* *ff*

Vln. IV *p* *f* *sul pont.* *mf* *ff* *mf* *ff* *mf* *ff*

Vla. I *p* *sfz* *p sub.* *sfz* *f* *mf* *ff* *mf* *ff*

Vla. II *p* *f* *ff* *mf* *ff* *mf* *ff*

Vc. *arco* *sfz* *p sub.* *sfz* *p sub.* *sfz* *f* *mf* *ff*

Db. *arco* *sfz* *p sub.* *sfz* *p sub.* *sfz* *f* *mf* *ff*

46

Vln. I *f* *p*

Vln. II pizz. *pp*

Vln. III *f* *p*

Vln. IV pizz. *pp*

Vla. I *f* *p*

Vla. II ord. *p dolce* pizz. *pp*

Vc. *f* *p*

Db. pizz. *p* *pp*

47 48 49

50

Detailed description: This is a page of a musical score for a string quartet and woodwinds. It contains measures 46 through 50. The instruments are Violin I, Violin II, Violin III, Violin IV, Viola I, Viola II, Violoncello (Vc.), and Double Bass (Db.). The score is written in 2/4 time. Measure 46 starts with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The first staff (Vln. I) has a melodic line starting on G4. The second staff (Vln. II) has a whole rest. The third staff (Vln. III) has a melodic line starting on G4. The fourth staff (Vln. IV) has a whole rest. The fifth staff (Vla. I) has a melodic line starting on G3. The sixth staff (Vla. II) has a whole rest. The seventh staff (Vc.) has a melodic line starting on G2. The eighth staff (Db.) has a whole rest. Measure 47 continues the melodic lines. Measure 48 continues the melodic lines. Measure 49 continues the melodic lines. Measure 50 is a final measure with a double bar line. Dynamics include *f* (forte), *p* (piano), *pp* (pianissimo), and *p dolce* (piano dolce). Performance instructions include *pizz.* (pizzicato) and *ord.* (ordinaire). The page number '6' is in the top left corner. Measure numbers '46', '47', '48', '49', and '50' are placed above the staves. Instrument abbreviations are on the left. Dynamics and performance instructions are placed below the staves.

3/4 Quite quick $\text{♩} = 60$

(arco)

Vln. I *f* playful pizz.

Vln. II *p* pizz.

Vln. III *p* pizz.

Vln. IV arco (trem.) *p*

Vla. I pizz. *p*

Vla. II arco (trem.) *p*

Vc. pizz. *p*

Db. pizz. *p*

arco

(*p*)

(*p*)

arco

(*p*)

arco

(*p*)

A **B** pizz.

Vln. I *sfz* *p*

Vln. II (trem.) (ord.) (trem.)

Vln. III (trem.) (ord.) (trem.) pizz. *p* arco

Vln. IV (ord.) *f* playful

Vla. I (trem.) (ord.) (trem.) *f* playful

Vla. II (ord.)

Vc. (trem.) (ord.) (trem.) pizz. *p* sub.

Db. *mf* *sfz* *p* sub.

mf *sfz* *p* sub.

14

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vln. III

Vln. IV

Vla. I

Vla. II

Vc.

Db.

f playful

pizz.

p

Detailed description: This system contains measures 14 through 18. The score is for a string ensemble. Violin II (Vln. II) begins in measure 14 with a melodic line marked *f playful*. Violin III (Vln. III) and Violin IV (Vln. IV) are mostly silent, with Vln. IV playing a pizzicato line starting in measure 15. Viola I (Vla. I) and Viola II (Vla. II) also play pizzicato parts. The Cello (Vc.) and Double Bass (Db.) provide a harmonic foundation with a steady bass line. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4.

19

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vln. III

Vln. IV

Vla. I

Vla. II

Vc.

Db.

arco

f playful

pizz.

ff

sfz

Detailed description: This system contains measures 19 through 23. The score continues from the previous system. In measure 19, Violin I (Vln. I) and Violin III (Vln. III) play arco parts marked *f playful*. Violin II (Vln. II) and Violin IV (Vln. IV) play pizzicato parts. In measure 20, Violin II (Vln. II) and Viola II (Vla. II) also play arco parts marked *f playful*. The Cello (Vc.) and Double Bass (Db.) continue their bass line. The dynamic *ff* (fortissimo) is indicated for the Violin I and Violin III parts in measure 23. The key signature and time signature remain the same.

C

25

Vln. I *p legg., sub.*
arco (trem.)

Vln. II *pp sub.*

Vln. III *p legg., sub.*
arco (trem.)

Vln. IV *pp sub.*

Vla. I *p legg., sub.*
arco (trem.)

Vla. II *pp sub.*
arco

Vc. *p legg., sub.*
arco

Db. *pp sub.*

(ord.)

D

33

Vln. I pizz. *p*

Vln. II pizz. *p*

Vln. III pizz. *p*

Vln. IV pizz. *p*

Vla. I *ff playful*

Vla. II pizz. *p*

Vc. *ff playful*

Db. pizz. *mf*

Vln. I pizz. *p*

Vln. II arco *sfz*

Vln. III pizz. *p*

Vln. IV pizz. *p*

Vla. I *ff playful*

Vla. II pizz. *p*

Vc. *ff playful*

Db. pizz. *mf*

pizz. *p*

arco *sfz*

pizz. *ff playful*

pizz. *p*

Musical score for measures 40-46. The score includes parts for Violin I, Violin II, Violin III, Violin IV, Viola I, Viola II, Violoncello (Vc.), and Double Bass (Db.).

- Violin I:** Starts at measure 40 with *arco* and *ff playful*. Features a melodic line with many slurs and accents.
- Violin II:** Similar melodic line to Violin I, with slurs and accents.
- Violin III:** Mostly rests, with some notes in measure 41 marked *mf*.
- Violin IV:** Mostly rests, with some notes in measure 41 marked *mf*.
- Viola I:** Starts with *pizz.* in measure 40, then *arco* and *ff* in measure 41. Features a rhythmic pattern.
- Viola II:** Mostly rests, with some notes in measure 41 marked *mf*.
- Violoncello (Vc.):** Starts with *sfz* in measure 40, then *arco* and *ff* in measure 41. Features a melodic line with slurs and accents.
- Double Bass (Db.):** Provides a bass line with slurs and accents.

Musical score for measures 47-53. The score includes parts for Violin I, Violin II, Violin III, Violin IV, Viola I, Viola II, Violoncello (Vc.), and Double Bass (Db.).

- Violin I:** Continues with a melodic line, ending with *mp* and *pp* dynamics in measure 53.
- Violin II:** Continues with a melodic line, ending with *mp* in measure 53.
- Violin III:** Continues with a melodic line, ending with *mf* and *f* dynamics.
- Violin IV:** Continues with a melodic line, ending with *mf* and *f* dynamics.
- Viola I:** Continues with a rhythmic pattern, ending with *f* and *p* dynamics.
- Viola II:** Continues with a melodic line, ending with *mf* and *f* dynamics.
- Violoncello (Vc.):** Continues with a melodic line, ending with *f* and *p* dynamics. Includes *pizz.* in measure 50.
- Double Bass (Db.):** Continues with a bass line, ending with *f*, *ff*, *p*, and *pp* dynamics.

4/4 Slow ♩ = 54
1 **4/4** con sord., arco

Vln. I *p legg.* con sord., arco **solo** *mf molto espr.*

Vln. II *p legg.* con sord., arco

Vln. III *p legg.* con sord., arco

Vln. IV *p legg.* con sord., arco

Vla. I *p legg.* con sord., arco

Vla. II *p legg.* con sord., arco pizz. arco *pp*

Vc. *p legg.* con sord., arco

Db. arco *p legg.*

A

Vln. I **3/4** **2/4** **3/4**

Vln. II

Vln. III

Vln. IV

Vla. I

Vla. II

Vc.

Db.

7 $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$ B

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vln. III

Vln. IV

Vla. I

Vla. II

Vc.

Db.

mf

mf

mf

mf

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for measures 7 and 8. The first system (measures 7-8) is in 3/4 time. The second system (measures 9-10) is in 4/4 time and marked with a 'B' in a box. The instruments are Vln. I, Vln. II, Vln. III, Vln. IV, Vla. I, Vla. II, Vc., and Db. Dynamics include mf and p.

9

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vln. III

Vln. IV

Vla. I

Vla. II

Vc.

Db.

p legg. e flaut.

p legg. e flaut.

p legg. e flaut.

p legg. e flaut.

p legg. e flaut.

p legg. e flaut.

f

p legg. e flaut.

mf

mf

mf

mf

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for measures 9 and 10. The score is divided into two systems. The first system (measures 9-10) is in 4/4 time. The instruments are Vln. I, Vln. II, Vln. III, Vln. IV, Vla. I, Vla. II, Vc., and Db. Dynamics include p legg. e flaut., f, and mf.

C **D**

Vln. I *f molto espr.* *p*

Vln. II *p*

Vln. III *f molto espr.* *p*

Vln. IV *p*

Vla. I *f molto espr.* *p*

Vla. II *p*

Vc. *f molto espr.* *p* *mf molto espr.* solo

Db. *f* *p*

E

15 **3/4** **4/4**

Vln. I *mf* pizz.

Vln. II *mf* *p*

Vln. III *mf* pizz.

Vln. IV *mf* *p*

Vla. I *mf* *p*

Vla. II *mf* *p*

Vc. *pp*

Db. *mf* *p*

19

3/4

2/4

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vln. III

Vln. IV

Vla. I

Vla. II

Vc.

Db.

mf

mf

p

pizz.

arco

pp

ppp

Detailed description: This musical score page contains measures 19, 20, and 21. Measure 19 is in 3/4 time, and measure 20 is in 2/4 time. The score includes parts for Violins I, II, III, and IV; Violas I and II; Violoncello (Vc.); and Double Bass (Db.).
- Vln. I: Measures 19-20 have eighth-note patterns. Measure 21 is a whole rest.
- Vln. II: Measure 19 is a whole rest. Measure 20 starts with a half note (Bb) marked *arco* and *mf*, followed by a slur over a whole note. Measure 21 is a half note marked *p*.
- Vln. III: Measures 19-20 have eighth-note patterns. Measure 21 is a whole rest.
- Vln. IV: Measure 19 is a whole rest. Measure 20 starts with a half note (D#) marked *arco*, followed by a slur over a whole note. Measure 21 is a half note marked *p*.
- Vla. I: Measure 19 is a whole rest. Measure 20 starts with a half note (Bb) marked *arco* and *mf*, followed by a slur over a whole note. Measure 21 is a half note marked *p*.
- Vla. II: Measure 19 has a half note (Bb) marked *arco* with a slur over it. Measure 20 starts with a half note (Bb) marked *arco* and *mf*, followed by a slur over a whole note. Measure 21 is a half note marked *p*.
- Vc.: Measure 19 has a half note (Bb) marked *pizz.* and *mf*. Measure 20 is a whole rest. Measure 21 is a whole rest.
- Db.: Measure 19 is a whole rest. Measure 20 starts with a half note (Bb) marked *pizz.* and *mf*, followed by a slur over a whole note. Measure 21 is a half note marked *ppp*.

IV

12 Fast and driving, but steady ♩. = 120

8 (senza sord.) arco

Vln. I *f* arco pizz. arco

Vln. II (senza sord.) pizz. arco pizz.

Vln. III arco (senza sord.) pizz. arco

Vln. IV *f* (senza sord.) pizz. arco pizz.

Vla. I *f* (senza sord.) arco pizz. arco

Vla. II (senza sord.) pizz. arco pizz.

Vc. arco (senza sord.) pizz. arco pizz. arco

Db. pizz. *f*

Vln. I

Vln. II arco

Vln. III

Vln. IV arco

Vla. I pizz. arco

Vla. II arco

Vc.

Db.

6 **8** **12**

7 **12** **8** **9** **A**

Vln. I *ff* *mf sub. molto dolce e cantabile*

Vln. II *pizz.* *ff*

Vln. III *ff* *mf sub. molto dolce e cantabile*

Vln. IV *pizz.* *ff*

Vla. I *ff* *mf sub. molto dolce e cantabile*

Vla. II *pizz.* *arco* *mf sub. molto dolce*

Vc. *ff* *mf sub. molto dolce*

Db. *ff* *arco* *mf sub. molto dolce*

12 **8** **9** **12** **B**

Vln. I *arco* *f* *arco* *f*

Vln. II *mf dolce* *pizz.* *f* *f*

Vln. III *mf dolce* *pizz.* *f* *f*

Vln. IV *mf dolce* *pizz.* *f* *f*

Vla. I *arco* *f* *arco* *f*

Vla. II *mf dolce* *pizz.* *mf* *f*

Vc. *mf dolce* *pizz.* *f* *f*

Db. *mf dolce* *pizz.* *f* *f*

16

Vln. I arco

Vln. II pizz.

Vln. III arco

Vln. IV pizz.

Vla. I arco

Vla. II pizz.

Vc. arco pizz.

Db. arco pizz.

19

6 12 C 6 12

Vln. I *pp* *f* *p sub.* *mf* *f sub.* *p*

Vln. II *ff* *mf*

Vln. III *pp* *f* *p sub.* *mf* *f sub.* *p*

Vln. IV *ff* *mf*

Vla. I *pp* *f* *p sub.* *mf* *f sub.* *p*

Vla. II *ff* *mf*

Vc. *ff* *mf* *f sub.* *p*

Db. *pp* *f* *mf* *pizz.* *f sub.*

23 **12** (trem.) (ord.) **9** (trem.) (ord.) (trem.) (ord.)

Vln. I *p* *fp* *fp* *f*

Vln. II *f espr.* *ff*

Vln. III (trem.) (ord.) (trem.) (ord.) (trem.) (ord.) *p* *fp* *fp* *f*

Vln. IV *f espr.* *ff*

Vla. I (trem.) (ord.) (trem.) (ord.) (trem.) (ord.) *p* *fp* *fp* *f*

Vla. II *mf* *f* *ff*

Vc. pizz. *mf* arco (trem.) (ord.) *fp* *f*

Db. *mf* *f*

27 **12** **D** **8** pizz. **6**

Vln. I *ff* *p*

Vln. II pizz. *f* arco *f*

Vln. III *ff* pizz. *p* arco *f*

Vln. IV pizz. *f* arco *f*

Vla. I *ff* pizz. *p* arco *f*

Vla. II pizz. *f* arco *f*

Vc. *ff* pizz. *p* arco *f*

Db. *p sub.*

30 $\frac{6}{8}$ arco $\frac{12}{8}$ **E** $\frac{6}{8}$ *gliss.* $\frac{12}{8}$

Vln. I *f* *mf* *f*

Vln. II arco

Vln. III *f* *mp* *f* *gliss.*

Vln. IV arco

Vla. I *f* *p* *f* *gliss.*

Vla. II arco

Vc. arco *p sub.* *f* *gliss.*

Db. arco *f*

34 $\frac{12}{8}$ $\frac{6}{8}$ $\frac{12}{8}$ $\frac{9}{8}$

Vln. I *p* *f* *ff* *p* *f* *ff*

Vln. II *mf* *f* *pizz.* *f* *ff*

Vln. III *p* *f* *ff* *p* *f* *ff*

Vln. IV *mf* *f* *pizz.* *f* *ff*

Vla. I *p* *f* *ff* *p* *f* *ff*

Vla. II *mf* *f* *pizz.* *f* *ff*

Vc. *p* *f* *ff* *p* *f* *ff*

Db. *p* *f* *ff* *p* *f* *ff* *pizz.* *arco*

F

37 $\frac{8}{8}$ $\frac{12}{8}$

Vln. I *mf sub. molto dolce* pizz. *p* arco

Vln. II *mp molto dolce* pizz. *p* arco

Vln. III *mf sub. molto dolce* arco *p* arco

Vln. IV *mf dolce* *mp molto dolce* arco

Vla. I *mf sub. molto dolce* arco *p* arco

Vla. II *mf dolce* *mp molto dolce* arco

Vc. *mf sub. molto dolce* *mp* pizz. arco

Db. *mf sub. molto dolce* *pp* *p* arco

G **H**

42 $\frac{8}{8}$ $\frac{12}{8}$

Vln. I *f* *p* *f* *p* *p*

Vln. II *mf dolce* *mf* *f* *p*

Vln. III *f* *p* *f* *p*

Vln. IV *mf dolce* *mf* *f* *p*

Vla. I *f* *p* *f* *p*

Vla. II *mf dolce* *mf* *f* *p*

Vc. *f* *p* *f* *p*

Db. *f* *p* *f* *p*

