

Trace I

for Violin & Live Electronics

Alex Groves

for Rakhi

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Instrumentation

Violin

Live Electronics

Duration

6'

Notes

Trace I is an intricate and translucent web of sound made by gently layering up very fragile and ethereal material that hovers right on the cusp of audibility. As a composer who can only play the piano, many instruments still hold an almost child-like fascination in the way they produce sound and, whilst I know technically how they work, there's still an element of magic for me in hearing and seeing them being played. In this piece, the performer conjures these tiny sounds out of the violin through just the most delicate of touches and bow strokes - as if their intervention is imperceptible and the instrument is speaking for itself.

Throughout the piece, the bow position is marked on the top staff with the entire length of the finger board in use. These unusual bowing positions and the gradual movement between them should be used to accentuate subtle changes in timbre throughout.

Trace I was written for Rakhi Singh and was premièred on Tuesday 16th November, 2021 at St Ethelburga's as part of SOLO 08.

An Ableton Live file is available from the composer to control the electronics, please contact Alex via music@alexgroves.co.uk for more information.

for Rakhi
Trace I
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Delicate and ethereal, like individual threads of sound (♩ = 60)

Bow Position
nut
bridge

Violin

Electronics

Electronics Reduction

A

7

IV

swap bow and finger over

Vln.

Elec.

B

13

one third towards bridge

two thirds towards bridge

IV

swap bow and finger over

Vln.

Elec.

C

19

III

II

III

II

Vln.

Elec.

39

Vln.

mf

Elec.

G

43

Vln.

gradually speed up
and slow down tremolo

f

Elec.

H

49

Vln.

one sixth
towards nut

mf

Elec.

I

53

Vln. *nat.*

Elec.

sim.

57

Vln. *mf*

Elec.

J

61

Vln. *one third towards nut*

Elec.

sim. *mp*

N

85 bridge until the end

The musical score consists of three staves. The top staff is a blank five-line staff with a double bar line at the end. The middle staff is labeled 'Vln.' and contains a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. It begins with a dynamic marking of *ppp* and a hairpin indicating a crescendo. A 'IV' chord symbol is placed above the first measure. The staff contains several measures of music, including a diamond-shaped symbol in the second measure and a final note with a fermata. The bottom staff is labeled 'Elec.' and contains two treble clefs, a key signature of one sharp, and a 4/4 time signature. It begins with a dynamic marking of *ppp* and a hairpin indicating a crescendo. The staff contains several measures of music, including a diamond-shaped symbol in the second measure and a final note with a fermata. The dynamic markings *ppp* and *pp* are placed below the violin staff, and *ppp* is placed below the electric guitar staff.