

Adam Spry

*Grimoire*

July 2023

*For String Orchestra*

# PROGRAMME NOTES

*Grimoires* is a piece for string orchestra, I named such based on the aura of mystic and enigma surrounding the word that is a very similar emotional landscape for the piece. The piece contains wisps of themes and ideas, coated in a feeling of poignancy, much like the spells and magic contained within a grimoire. The key musical idea I was exploring in this piece was harmony, and how I could use the timbre of strings to shape the harmonies.

*-Adam Spry*

Duration: ca. 5' 30"

PREVIEW

# Grimoire

For String Orchestra

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Mysterious ♩ = 72

Musical score for Violins I, Violins II, Violas, Violoncellos, and Contrabasses. The score is in 4/4 time with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The tempo is marked 'Mysterious' with a quarter note equal to 72 beats per minute. The dynamics are marked *pp* (pianissimo) for all parts. The Violins I and II parts have rests in the first two measures, while the other parts play from the first measure.

Musical score for Violins I, Violins II, Violas, Violoncellos, and Contrabasses. The score is in 4/4 time with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The dynamics are marked *p* (piano) and *pp* (pianissimo). The Violins I and II parts have rests in the first two measures, while the other parts play from the first measure. The Violins I and II parts have rests in the first two measures, while the other parts play from the first measure.

11

Vlins. I

Vlins. II

Vlas.

Vcs.

Cbs.

*pp* *mp*

18

Vlins. I

Vlins. II

Vlas.

Vcs.

Cbs.

*pizz.* *p* *pp*

6 6

22

Vlms. I

Vlms. II

Vlas.

Vcs.

Cbs.

arco

pp

6

*mf*  $\nabla$  *pp*

This musical score block covers measures 22 to 25. It features five staves: Violins I, Violins II, Violas, Cellos, and Double Basses. The key signature has three sharps (F#, C#, G#). Measures 22 and 23 show melodic lines for Violins I and II, with a six-measure slur over measure 23 in Violins II. Dynamic markings include *mf* with a decrescendo hairpin in measures 23 and 24. The word "arco" is written above the string parts in measures 23 and 24. The dynamic *pp* is used throughout measures 23, 24, and 25. Measure 25 features a pizzicato-like texture in the upper strings.

29

Vlms. I

Vlms. II

Vlas.

Vcs.

Cbs.

*p*

*mf*

*pizz.*

*p*

*p*

*mf*

*p*

This musical score block covers measures 29 to 32. It features five staves: Violins I, Violins II, Violas, Cellos, and Double Basses. The key signature has three sharps (F#, C#, G#). Measures 29 and 30 show sustained notes across all string parts. Dynamic markings include *p* (piano) and *mf* (mezzo-forte). A decrescendo hairpin connects the *mf* in measure 30 to the *p* in measure 31. The word "pizz." (pizzicato) appears above the Violins II staff in measure 31. Measure 32 features a melodic line for Violins II starting with a *p* dynamic. The Cello and Double Bass parts have a *p* dynamic at the end of the system.

34

Vlins. I

Vlins. II

Vlas.

Vcs.

Cbs.

pizz.

arco

*p*

*p* *pp*

*p* *pp*

*p* *pp*

*p*

*mp*

39

Vlins. I

Vlins. II

Vlas.

Vcs.

Cbs.

*mp*

*mp*

*pp*

*pp*

45

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vlas.

Vcs.

Cbs.

*p*

*mp*

*pp*

*p*

*p*

49

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vlas.

Vcs.

Cbs.

*f*

*f*

*f*

*f*

*f*

*f*

*sfpp*

*sfpp*

*sfpp*

*p*

55

Vlins. I

Vlins. II

Vlas.

Vcs.

Cbs.

*pp*

*p*

pizz.

arco

6

60

Vlins. I

Vlins. II

Vlas.

Vcs.

Cbs.

*p*

*p*



66

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vlas.

Vcs.

Cbs.

*p*

69

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vlas.

Vcs.

Cbs.

*f*

73

Vlins. I

Vlins. II

Vlas.

Vcs.

Cbs.

mp

This system contains measures 73 through 76. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The time signature is 3/4. The first three measures (73-75) feature a dense texture with multiple accidentals and rests in the upper staves. The fourth measure (76) shows a dynamic marking of *mp* and a crescendo hairpin. The bassoon part (Vcs.) has a change in time signature from 3/4 to 3/8 in the fourth measure.

77

Vlins. I

Vlins. II

Vlas.

Vcs.

Cbs.

*f*

*ff*

This system contains measures 77 through 80. The key signature remains three sharps. The first measure (77) has a dynamic marking of *f*. The bassoon part (Vcs.) has a dynamic marking of *ff* in the first measure. The strings (Vlins. I, Vlins. II, Vlas., Cbs.) play sustained chords or simple rhythmic patterns.

81

Vlins. I

Vlins. II

Vlas.

Vcs.

Cbs.

This system contains measures 81 through 84. The key signature is three sharps. The first measure (81) has a dynamic marking of *ff*. The strings (Vlins. I, Vlins. II, Vlas., Cbs.) play sustained chords or simple rhythmic patterns. The woodwinds (Vcs.) have more active melodic lines.

85 **accel.**

Vlins. I *sfpp*

Vlins. II *sfpp*

Vlas. *sfpp*

Vcs. *sfpp*

Cbs. *sfpp*

93 **a tempo**

Vlins. I *ff* *subito p* *arco* *pp* *p*

Vlins. II *ff* *subito p* *pizz.* *arco* *pp* *p*

Vlas. *ff* *subito pp*

Vcs. *ff* *subito pp*

Cbs. *ff* *subito pp*