

Trio for Two Cellos and Piano



Bill Robinson

Trio for Two Cellos and Piano

October 18—December 4, 2025

Duration; about 14 minutes

for Bonnie Thron

The idea for a piece for two cellos and piano came up during a meal celebrating my 70th birthday in January 2025 with cellist Bonnie Thron, her husband clarinetist Fred Jacobowitz, and violinist Eric Pritchard. But I had a terrible outer ear infection, and by late February I lost my right eardrum. It was repaired surgically on July 1; I wasn't in shape to compose until September. After a short piano work, "Happy Birthday to Me", I finally got started on this new project.

The first three movements went smoothly. My attempts in December for a fourth stalled, restarted, stalled again, and eventually I gave up. I'll call it complete for now, although someday I might add a fourth movement, as it seems to need one.

Bill Robinson

Publisher Parrish Press Garner, NC 1st Edition January 3, 2026

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*Cover photo: the composer at Raulston Arboretum,
taken by Bonnie Thron, April 4, 2025*

Trio for Two Cellos and Piano

I. Overture

[4:20]

Bill Robinson

As simple as possible but no simpler $\text{♩} = 138$

Cello 1

Cello 2

Piano

As simple as possible but no simpler $(\text{♩} = 138)$

Red.

*

The musical score is for a Trio for Two Cellos and Piano, titled 'I. Overture' by Bill Robinson. The tempo is marked as 138 beats per minute. The score is written for Cello 1, Cello 2, and Piano. The key signature has two flats. The score is divided into systems, with measures 8, 16, and 22 marked. Dynamics include mp, cresc., p, mf, and ff. The score ends with a double bar line and repeat signs.

30 *ff*

30

36

36

43

43

43

43

50 *rit.* *Meno mosso* (♩ = 112)

50 *rit.* *Meno mosso* (♩ = 112)

51

51

Tempo I (♩ = 138)

Tempo I (♩ = 138)

Rea.

60 *dim.* *pp* *f*

60 *dim.* *pp* *f*

67 *cresc.* *ff*

67 *cresc.* *ff* *8va*

76 *ff* *dim.* *(mf)* *(mp)* *(p)*

84 *ff* *dim.* *(mf)* *(mp)* *(p)*

94

pp *cresc.* *(p)* *(mp)* *(mf)* *f*

pp *cresc.* *(p)* *(mp)* *(mf)* *f*

94

pp *pp+* *p* *mp*

105

ff *dim.* *f* *(mf)* *(mp)* *p*

ff *dim.* *f* *(mf)* *(mp)* *p*

105

p

Leo. *

115

p

Leo. *

115

p

Leo. *

123

mf *cresc.* *f*

mf *cresc.* *f*

123

mf *cresc.* *f*

mf *cresc.* *f*

128

mp *ff*

135

mp *ff*

141

mp *ff*

149

Meno mosso
(♩ = 112)

p

155

155

Tempo I (♩ = 138)

162

Tempo I (♩ = 138)

170

170

178

178

attacca

attacca

p

p

mp

cresc.

mp

mf

f

ff

rit.

f

mf

p

pp

f

mf

p

pp

II. Lullaby

[5:15]

7

Adagio sempre legato e dolce (♩ = 52)

Cello 1

Cello 2

Piano

p *mp* *p* *mp* *mf*

p *mp* *p* *mp* *mf*

p *mp* *p* *mp* *mf*

rit.

a tempo

pp *p* *mp* *mf* *dim.*

pp *p* *mp* *mf* *dim.*

a tempo

pp *p* *mp* *mf* *dim.*

(mp) *p* *pp* *p* *mp*

(mp) *p* *pp* *p* *mp*

(mp) *p* *pp* *p* *mp*

mf *dim.* *(mp)*

mf *dim.* *(mp)*

mp *mf* *dim.* *(mp)*

mp *mf* *dim.* *(mp)*

Mov. 2

8

22

22

p *mp* *p* *mp* *p* *mf*

28

28

p *pp* *p* *pp* *p*

28

28

p

33

33

mp *dim.* *p* *pp*

33

33

mp *dim.* *p* *pp*

38

38

p

38

38

p

40

mf *dim.*

43

p *pp* *p*

46

mp *p* *cresc.*

49

mp *dim.* *p* *cresc.*

52

(mp) *(mf)* *f*

55

(mp) *(mf)* *f*

Mov. 2

10

57 *p cresc.* *mp* *cresc.*

57 *p cresc.* *mp* *cresc.*

60 *mf* *dim.* *mp*

60 *mf* *dim.* *mp*

63 *dim.* *(p)* *pp* *rit.* *a tempo*

63 *dim.* *(p)* *pp* *rit.* *a tempo*

68 *rit.* *rit.*

68 *rit.*

Reo. *Reo.* *Reo.* *Reo.* ** 8va*

11

18

legato cresc.

(mf)

f

Pizz.

Pizz.

21

24

27

(♩ = ♩) (♩ = 80)

31

Var. 3 (♩ = 68)

pizz.

p

mp

mp

mp

8va -

8va -

8va -

36 *mf* *mp* *mp* *arco*

36 *mf* *mp* *8va* *Red.* *

42 *mf* *mf* *mf*

42 *mf* *mf* *mf*

46 *f* *mf* *mp* *p* *rit.*

46 *8va* *f* *mf* *mp* *p* *rit.*

Var. 4 (♩ = 54)

50 *cresc.* *(mp)* *(mf)* *f*

Var. 4 (♩ = 54)

50 *cresc.* *(mp)* *(mf)* *f*

57 *cresc.* *ff* *8va*

62 *ff* *dim.* *f* *mf*

68 *(mp)* *p* *pp*

Var. 5 (♩ = 106)

72 *ff*

72 Var. 5 (♩ = 106)

76 *non stacc.* *fff* *modo ord.*

79 *Var. 6* (♩ = 76) *fff* *p*

82 *p* *mp* *mf*

87 *rit.* *mp* *p* *pp* *rit.* *pp* *8va*