

Gayatri Sonata

**for Viola
and Piano**

ॐ भूर्भुवः स्वः तत्सवितुर्वरेण्यं भर्गो देवस्य धीमहि
धियो यो नः प्रचोदयात् ॥

**Bill
Robinson**

Gayatri Sonata

for Viola and Piano

Composed Dec. 27, 2004—May 11, 2005
Arranged from the original cello version July 13, 2007
Duration: about 20 minutes

The middle movement is based on a setting I wrote of the Gayatri Mantra, a sacred mantra in Hinduism from the *Rig Veda*, for six-string violin and baritone in 2002. I ended up using only the melody from that original composition as the main theme. The words in Sanskrit are:

Om Bhur bhuvah svahah
Tat savitur varenyam
Bhargo Devasya dheemahi
Dheeyo yo nah prachodayaat

Any translation is highly approximate, but it is something like; “Oh Divine Beings of all three worlds, we meditate on the glorious splendor of God. May He himself illumine our minds.”

The tempo marking of the first movement, “IWHWIFATBS”, stands for “It won’t hurt when I fall off this barstool”. Notice that this lyric fits the theme...

This sonata, originally for cello and piano, is in memory of my mother, Frances Vanderkooi Robinson Westman, who died in February 2005. She played both the cello and the piano. I also had in mind during the composition two cellists: David Vanderkooi, my uncle, and Jonathan Kramer, of the music department at NCSU.

The premiere performance was by Bonnie Thron, cellist, and Nancy Whelan, pianist, at Duke University in 2010.

The early editions of the score and part were in legal-size format. In 2022, I made a letter-size edition for score and part, as well as an edition of the viola part specifically for electronic music readers, with the part enlarged and including reduced piano staves.

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Gayatri Sonata

First Movement

[6']

Bill Robinson

IWHWIFOTBS

♩ = 76

Viola

Piano

p

4

4

9

mp

mf

mp

mf

15

f

mf

mp

p

cresc. p. a p.

15

f

mf

mp

p

cresc. p. a p.

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2

23 *(mp)*

(mf) *f* *ff*

29

f *ff*

35

ff *mp*

mf

8vb *Ped.* *Ped.* *Ped.* *Ped.* *

41

f *ff*

f *ff*

46

ff dim.

46

51

p

mp

cresc.

51

58

mf

ff

58

63

ff

63

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4

69 *ff* | *p*

74

80 *mp* *mf*

mp *mf*

Leo. Leo. Leo. *

85 *f* *ff*

f *ff*

8^{vb}

91 *ff*

95

98 *ff pp*

f mp dolce

101 *dolce*

mp

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106

106

112

mf

112

mf²

118

118

124

mf cresc. *f* *ff*

124

mf cresc. *f* *ff*

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128

128

131

131

135

135

8vb-

139

139

ff dim. ----- p

ff dim. ----- p

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8

144

149

154

158

167

ff

8vb

175

f

mf

184

Ped.

190

Ped.

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10

196

mp

cresc.

Ped.

Ped.

Ped.

Ped.

Ped.

Ped.

Ped.

202

cresc.

mf

f

cresc.

mf

f

8vb

Poco meno mosso ♩ = 70

207

ff

ff

8vb

212

ff

pp

ff

pp

Second Movement: Gayatri Mantra

[6'40"]

11

Om bhur buvaha swaha tat savitur varenyam, bhargo devasia dimahi, diho yo naha prachodayat

With Devotion $\text{♩} = 80$

The musical score is arranged in four systems, each with a Viola part (bass clef) and a Piano part (grand staff). The tempo is marked as $\text{♩} = 80$. The key signature is one flat (B-flat major or D minor). The time signature is 3/4. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, accents, and triplets. The dynamics are marked as *p*, *f*, *mf*, and *mp*. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, accents, and triplets. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, accents, and triplets.

System 1: Measures 1-4. Viola starts with a rest, then enters with a quarter note G2, followed by a quarter note A2, and a quarter note Bb2. Piano starts with a piano (*p*) dynamic, playing a series of chords and moving lines. Measure 4 has a forte (*f*) dynamic. There are triplets in measures 3 and 4.

System 2: Measures 5-8. Viola continues with a series of eighth notes and quarter notes. Piano continues with a series of chords and moving lines. Measure 8 has a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. There are triplets in measures 5, 6, and 7.

System 3: Measures 9-11. Viola continues with a series of eighth notes and quarter notes. Piano continues with a series of chords and moving lines. Measure 11 has a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. There are triplets in measures 9 and 10.

System 4: Measures 12-15. Viola continues with a series of eighth notes and quarter notes. Piano continues with a series of chords and moving lines. Measure 15 has a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. There are triplets in measures 12 and 13.

17

21

24

27

29

mp *dolce*

31

34

mf *f* *ff*

36

p *mp*

39

rubato

42

a tempo
mp *rubato* *mf cresc.* *f*

45

ff *rubato* *a tempo* *rubato* *8va*

47

a tempo
ff *p* *dolce* *8vb*

52

pp p

55

pp p

Ped. *

57

pp p

59

ff p

8va 8vb

Musical score for measures 60-62. The system includes three staves: a single treble clef staff at the top, and a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) below. Measure 60 features a treble staff with a triplet of eighth notes marked *8va-3* and a bass staff with a triplet of eighth notes marked *8va-3*. Measure 61 continues with similar triplet patterns. Measure 62 shows a change in dynamics from *ff* to *p* in the treble staff, and *ff* to *mp* to *p* in the bass staff. A *8va-3* marking is present in the bass staff of measure 62, and a *8vb* marking is in the bass staff of measure 61.

Musical score for measures 63-65. The system includes three staves: a single treble clef staff at the top, and a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) below. Measure 63 is marked *dolce*. The treble staff contains a melodic line with slurs and ties. The bass staff contains a rhythmic accompaniment with slurs and ties. Measures 64 and 65 continue the melodic and rhythmic patterns.

Musical score for measures 66-68. The system includes three staves: a single treble clef staff at the top, and a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) below. Measure 66 features a treble staff with a melodic line and a bass staff with a rhythmic accompaniment. Measure 67 shows a change in dynamics to *fff* in both staves. Measure 68 continues with *fff* dynamics. A *8vb* marking is present in the bass staff of measure 66, and *8va* markings are in the bass staff of measures 67 and 68.

Musical score for measures 69-71. The system includes three staves: a single treble clef staff at the top, and a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) below. Measure 69 features a treble staff with a melodic line and a bass staff with a rhythmic accompaniment. Measure 70 shows a change in dynamics to *fff* in both staves. Measure 71 shows a change in dynamics to *pp* in both staves. A *rit.* marking is present in the treble staff of measure 70, and a *rit.* marking is in the bass staff of measure 70. A *8va* marking is present in the bass staff of measure 69, and a *8vb* marking is in the bass staff of measure 70. The system ends with an *attacca* marking in the treble staff of measure 71.

III. Rondo Cappuccino

[7:15]

♩ = 80

Git Them Toes To Tappin'

Viola

Piano

ff

4

4

ff

Leg.

*

7

7

8^{va}---

8^{va}---

8^{vb}-----

8^{vb}-----

10

10

8^{vb}-----

8^{vb} Leg.

*

13

ff

16

ff

19

ff

22

legato

p *cresc. p. a p.*

22

8va

p *cresc. p. a p.*

p *cresc. p. a p.*

25

(mp)

(mp)

Ped. *

28

(mf)

(mf)

Ped. *

31

f *ff*

f *ff*

Ped. *

33

Ped. *

35

Musical score for measures 35-36. The system consists of three staves: a single treble clef staff at the top, and a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) below. Measure 35 features a melodic line in the treble staff with eighth notes and a half note, and a piano accompaniment in the grand staff with eighth notes and a half note. Measure 36 continues the melodic line with a half note and a quarter note, and the piano accompaniment with eighth notes and a half note.

37

Musical score for measures 37-38. The system consists of three staves: a single treble clef staff at the top, and a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) below. Measure 37 features a melodic line in the treble staff with eighth notes and a half note, and a piano accompaniment in the grand staff with eighth notes and a half note. Measure 38 continues the melodic line with a half note and a quarter note, and the piano accompaniment with eighth notes and a half note.

39

Musical score for measures 39-40. The system consists of three staves: a single treble clef staff at the top, and a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) below. Measure 39 features a melodic line in the treble staff with eighth notes and a half note, and a piano accompaniment in the grand staff with eighth notes and a half note. Measure 40 continues the melodic line with a half note and a quarter note, and the piano accompaniment with eighth notes and a half note.

41

Musical score for measures 41-42. The system consists of three staves: a single treble clef staff at the top, and a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) below. Measure 41 features a melodic line in the treble staff with eighth notes and a half note, and a piano accompaniment in the grand staff with eighth notes and a half note. Measure 42 continues the melodic line with a half note and a quarter note, and the piano accompaniment with eighth notes and a half note. A dashed line with '8vb' is positioned below the bass staff.

43

(8vb)-----

45

ff *pp*

ff *pp*

48

pp | *ff*

ff

8vb-----

51

| *pp*

pp

(8vb)-----

54

54

8vb

57

p *cresc. p. a p.* (*mp*)

57

p *cresc. p. a p.* (*mp*)

8va 8vb 8va 8va 8va

60

(*mf*) *f*

60

(*mf*) *f*

(8vb) *

63

ff *mp*

63

ff *mf*

8va 8va 8va 8va 8va 8va 8va 8va 8va

67

67

p *ff*

ff *

Detailed description: This system covers measures 67 to 70. The top staff (melody) begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic and a half note, then transitions to a forte (*ff*) dynamic with a sixteenth-note melody. The middle staff (treble clef) features a series of chords, with a forte (*ff*) dynamic starting at measure 69. The bottom staff (bass clef) has a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes, marked with an asterisk (*) at measure 69.

71

71

Detailed description: This system covers measures 71 to 73. The top staff continues the melodic line with sixteenth-note patterns. The middle staff shows chords and melodic fragments. The bottom staff maintains the eighth-note accompaniment.

74

74

ff *8vb*

Detailed description: This system covers measures 74 to 76. The top staff has a melodic line with accents. The middle staff features chords and melodic lines. The bottom staff has a rhythmic accompaniment with a forte (*ff*) dynamic and an *8vb* marking.

77

77

f *8vb*

Detailed description: This system covers measures 77 to 80. The top staff has a melodic line with accents. The middle staff features chords and melodic lines with a forte (*f*) dynamic and an *8vb* marking. The bottom staff has a rhythmic accompaniment with an *8vb* marking.

80 *legato*
mp

80 *mp legato*

84

84

88 *f* *ff*

88 *f* *ff*

91 *rubato* *ff* *p*

91 *sva*

95 *rit.* *a tempo*
mp

99

103

106

109

109

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

112

112

*

115

115

mp *ff*

ff *mp* *ff*

118

118

mp *dolce*

mp *dolce*

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121

Ped.

124

Ped.

127

127

129

129

132

mp

132

mp

Detailed description: This system contains measures 132 and 133. The top staff is a single melodic line in 4/4 time, starting with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The music consists of eighth and sixteenth notes with slurs. The dynamic marking *mp* is placed below the staff. The bottom staff is a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) with a piano accompaniment of eighth notes, also slurred. The dynamic marking *mp* is placed between the two staves.

134

f ff

134

f ff

Detailed description: This system contains measures 134 and 135. The top staff continues the melodic line from the previous system, with dynamic markings *f* and *ff*. The bottom staff continues the piano accompaniment, with dynamic markings *f* and *ff*. There are accents (>) over several notes in both staves.

137

sfz sfz

137

sfz sfz

Detailed description: This system contains measures 137 and 138. The top staff features a melodic line with dynamic markings *sfz* and *sfz*. The bottom staff features a piano accompaniment with dynamic markings *sfz* and *sfz*. There are accents (>) over several notes in both staves.

140

sfz sfz

140

sfz sfz

Detailed description: This system contains measures 140 and 141. The top staff features a melodic line with dynamic markings *sfz* and *sfz*. The bottom staff features a piano accompaniment with dynamic markings *sfz* and *sfz*. There are accents (>) over several notes in both staves.

143

Musical score for measures 143-144. The system consists of three staves. The top staff is a single treble clef line with a melodic line. The middle and bottom staves are grouped as a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) and contain a piano accompaniment with chords and arpeggiated figures.

145

Musical score for measures 145-146. The system consists of three staves. The top staff is a single treble clef line with a melodic line. The middle and bottom staves are grouped as a grand staff and contain a piano accompaniment.

147

Musical score for measures 147-148. The system consists of three staves. The top staff is a single treble clef line with a melodic line. The middle and bottom staves are grouped as a grand staff and contain a piano accompaniment. A dashed line above the middle staff indicates an octave transposition for the upper register.

149

(no rit.)

Musical score for measures 149-150. The system consists of three staves. The top staff is a single treble clef line with a melodic line. The middle and bottom staves are grouped as a grand staff and contain a piano accompaniment. The notation includes dynamic markings such as *fff* and *ff*. A dashed line above the middle staff indicates an octave transposition.