

# **Gayatri Sonata**

## **for Viola and Piano**

ॐ भूर्भुवः स्वः तत्सवितुर्वरेण्यं भग्वा 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 svah  
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.

## **Bill Robinson**

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**[www.billrobinsonmusic.com](http://www.billrobinsonmusic.com)**

Viola

# Gayatri Sonata

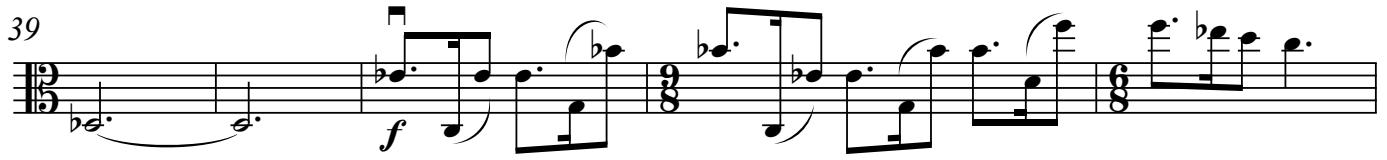
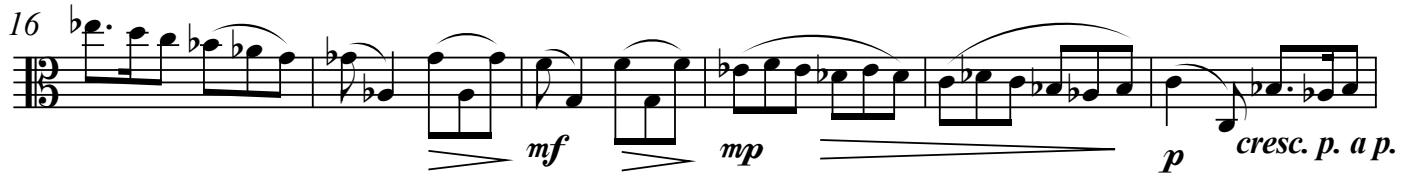
## First Movement

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IWHWIFATBS

$\text{♩} = 76$

**10**



## Gayatri Sonata

2

54

mp

cresc. - - - (mf) - - -

61

ff

(mf)

65

ff

71

ffp

76

2

82

2

2

2

2

2

mp

mf

f

ff

ff

87

>

>

>

>

>

>

>

ff

93

>

>

>

>

>

>

>

ff

98

ff pp

## Gayatri Sonata

3

102

108

114

119

125

130

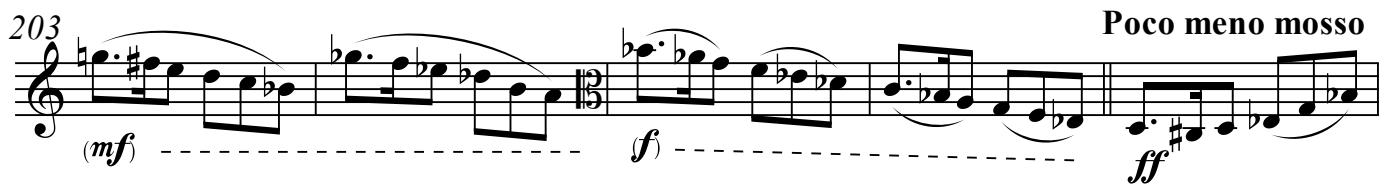
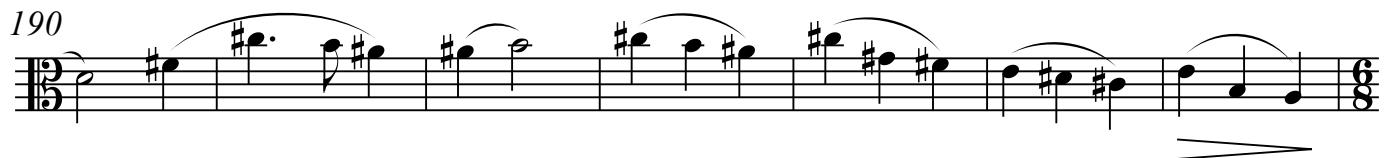
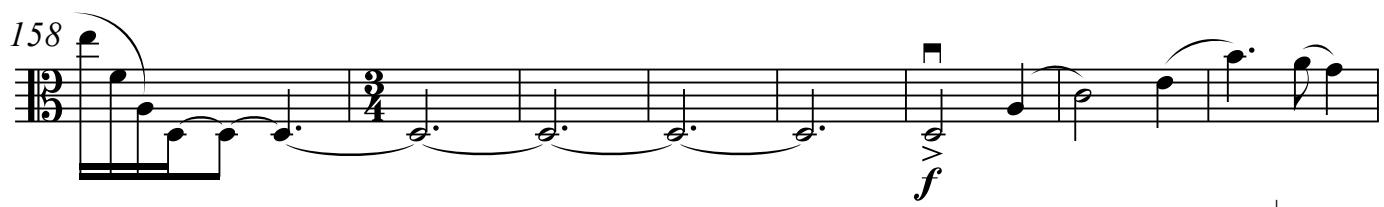
137

144

152

## Gayatri Sonata

4



## Second Movement: Gayatri Mantra

[6'40"]

5

Om bhur buvah(a) swah(a) tat savitur varenyam, bhargo devasiva dimahi, diho yo nah(a) prachodayat

**With Devotion**  $\text{♩} = 80$

6

10

14

18

22

26

30

35

$\text{♩} = 80$

*ff*

*p*

*mf*

*mp*

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

*mf* < *f* <

## Gayatri Sonata

6



41

*rubato*      *a tempo*      *rubato*      *a tempo*

*mp*      *mf cresc.*

44

*rubato*

*f*

46

*a tempo*      *rubato*

50

*a tempo*

*ff*      *p*      *pp*

*p*

57

*ff*

60

*ff*      *p*

64

*V*

68

*rit.*

*fff*

*attacca*

*pp*

## III. Rondo Cappuccino

[7:15]

7

Git Them Toes To Tappin'

 $\bullet = 80$ 

The sheet music consists of ten staves of musical notation for a single instrument. The tempo is indicated as  $\bullet = 80$ . The key signature changes frequently, including G major, A major, F# minor, E major, D major, and B major. Measure numbers are present at the beginning of each staff: 1, 4, 7, 10, 14, 18, 21, 26, 29, and 32. The dynamics include *ff*, *p*, *cresc. p. a p.*, *legato*, *(mp)*, *(mf)*, and *f*. The music features various rhythmic patterns, including eighth-note and sixteenth-note figures, with many slurs and grace notes. The bass clef is used throughout.

## Gayatri Sonata

35

38

41

45

48

51

54

57

64

67

70

73

## Gayatri Sonata

9

77

80 *legato* *mp*

86 *f*

90 *ff*

93 *rubato* *rit.* *p*

97 *a tempo* *mp*

101

105

109

113

116 *mp ff*

This block contains 13 staves of musical notation for a single instrument. The music is in common time, with occasional changes to 2/4 and 3/4 time. The key signature varies between G major and F# major. Dynamic markings include *legato*, *rubato*, *rit.*, *a tempo*, *mp*, *ff*, and *ff ff*. Articulation marks like dots and dashes are present on many notes. Measure numbers 77 through 116 are indicated at the start of each staff.

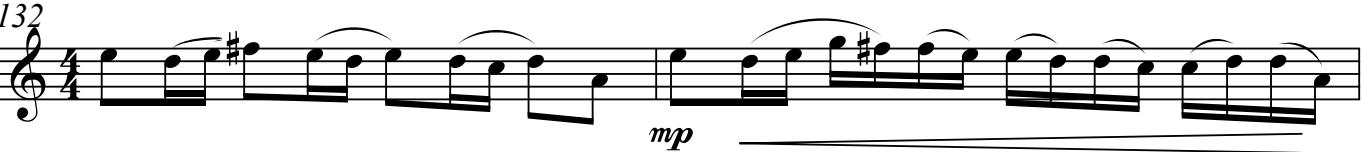
## Gayatri Sonata

10

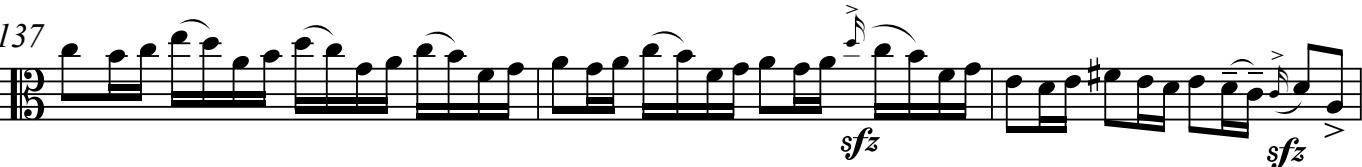
120   
*mp dolce*

124 

128 

132   
*mp*

134   
*f*

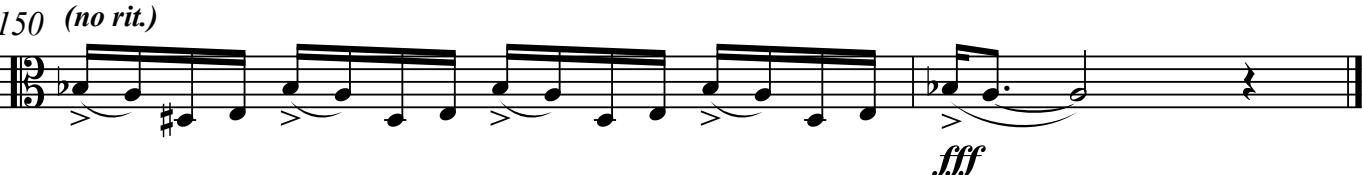
137   
*ff* *>>>* *sfz* *>*

140 

143 

146 

148 

150 (*no rit.*)   
*fff*