

Aaron Houston
Americana Soul

-- for solo viola --

Full Score

Aaron Houston Music, 2019
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For Perusal Use Only

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Duration: ca. 4:30 minutes

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Program Note

American music is made up of a borrowed language. Much of what we consider to be “American” can be traced back to European sources in classical music, the British Isles in folk music, or Africa and Latin America in the world of jazz, blues, and even rock. However, it’s the combination of these various elements in surprisingly individualistic ways that gives these different influences an American “flavor”.

Americana Soul takes these different backgrounds – from the driving energy of rock and Appalachian folk music to the winding melodies of jazz and blues – and combines them to give voice to the melting pot that is Americana music. Featuring the tune of “New York” reel, *Americana Soul* weaves this fiddle tune into every part of the performance as it works its way to the surface before being overwhelmed by the gritty cacophony of American rock music.

Americana Soul was commissioned and premiered by Brian Bires in 2019.

Performance Notes

Technique indications:

- m.s.p. = “molto sul ponticello”; to be played as near to the bridge as possible with as much extra “noise” and overtones as possible.
- s.p. = “sul ponticello”; to be played near the bridge.
- s.t. = “sul tasto”; to be played near the fingerboard with a lighter, airy texture.
- flaut. = “flautando”; to be played with an airy, flute-like tone.
- ord. = “ordinario”; cancels out any other playing techniques.
- $X \rightarrow Y$ = a gradual transition from playing technique “X” to playing technique “Y”.
- jeté = ricochet (bounce) the bow off the strings while playing. The “rhythm” of the ricochets is not important here.
- ◀ = gradually increase the bow pressure for the duration of the triangle above the music. This should result in a distorted, scratchy, and unclear sound by the end of the triangle.
- ∪ = “scoop”; slide into the note indicated from below.

Microtones:

Microtones are utilized throughout the piece. The notation for these is simply the regular accidental with an arrow added to one of the stems of the accidental to indicate its direction of microtonal inflection. For instance, an F# with ↑ added to it the accidental would be raised an additional quarter-tone from the original F#.

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Viola

Americana Soul

Aaron Houston

Excitedly, $\text{♩} = 100$

4

7

10

13

15

sfz f *p* *mf*

tr *mf* *sfz f*

inc. bow pressure *pizz.* *sul pont. arco* *jeté* *mp* *sfz mf* *sfz*

pizz. *arco ord.* *7* *accel.* *a tempo* *p* *f*

3 *rit.* *a tempo* *s.t.* *p*

tr *3* *ord.* *m.s.p.* *tr ord.* *mf* *p*

Viola

Tempo I

Laid back, ♩ = 84

18

sfz f sfz mp sfz p

pizz. arco ord.

22

sfz mp sfz

pizz. arco ord.

25

f f f p sub.

ord. s.p.

29

p sub. cresc. poco a poco p sub. cresc. poco a poco sfz f

Slowly and creeping forward (♩ = 60) ord. legato accel. poco a poco

33

mf mf

accel. poco a poco

35

f f ff sfz mp

(♩ = 84) f ff sfz mp ord. m.s.p.

39

ff sfz mf f più f

ord. sfz mf f più f

43

f ff ff ff

46

48

rit.....

..... More slowly, ♩ = 88

s.t.
flaut.

accel.....

50

..... molto rit.....

53

ord.

s.p.

Playfully, ♩ = 92

ord.

57

58

60

63

Viola

66

ord. —————> m.s.p.

mp sub. ————— *f* *mp* ————— *f*

mf ————— *f* *p sub.* *mf*

68

rit.....

a tempo

72

74

sfz ————— *sfz* *f*

molto rit.....

s.t.

ord. —————> s.t.

p sub. ————— *mf* ————— *pp*

Slowly, but with momentum, ♩ = 72 poco accel.....

ord. —————> legato

mp ————— *f*

83

Steadily ♩ = 88

s.p. —————> ord.

mf ————— *f* ————— *mp* *f*

poco accel......

s.t.----->

s.p.

86

p sub. *mf* *f* *mp*

89 **Lively,** ♩ = 92

f *mf*

91

sfz *p sub.*

93

f *mf*

95

f *mf*

molto rit...... **a tempo**

97

ff *sfz*