

Gilad Cohen

Firefly Elegy

for clarinet, violin, viola, cello and harp

(2017)

Commissioned for the Israeli Chamber Project
by the Adele and John Gray Endowment Fund

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Firefly Elegy
for clarinet, violin, viola, cello and harp

Program notes:

Firefly Elegy uses a 12-note melodic theme, which through the course of the piece undergoes a series of transformations - mirroring the metamorphosis that takes place over a firefly's brief life span.

The piece comprises four sections that reflect the four life stages of the firefly.

During the motionless egg stage, some types of fireflies glow dimly; the opening section of the piece (following a short fanfare of flashing-light) is likewise static and calm, while at the same time features an internal motion hinting at subdued energy. The following groovy section is at times aggressive, not unlike the firefly during its larva stage, when it is hunting and digesting insects using special enzymes.

The firefly hibernates through the pupa stage - reflected in the third section of the piece by seemingly everlasting sustained chords in the strings. Like a flash of light, each new phrase begins with an ascending scale, while the harp provides groups of repeated notes, recalling the synchronized flashes that are found in groups of tropical fireflies.

Firefly Elegy ends with an elegy in which the now mature firefly looks back at its life.

It has gone through such an extensive journey but only long enough to mate and lay eggs, sometimes without feeding during its adult stage.

In the summertime, I often watch the firefly in his lonely flutter, flashing about and looking for a mate so he can complete the sole purpose of his short life before dying away. He must sometimes look back and wonder: was it all worth it?

Performance notes:

* For the viola, guitar pick is recommended for mm. 196-213.

* For the harp, harmonics are written where they are produced, sounding an octave higher.

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Version 1.17.19

Fast, alert and sudden (♩=180)

Musical score for Clarinet in Bb, Violin, Viola, and Violoncello. The score is in 4/4 time and features a tempo of 180 beats per minute. The Clarinet part begins with a triplet of eighth notes (F4, G4, A4) marked *f* and *poco*, followed by a long note (B4) with a fermata. The Violin part mirrors the Clarinet's initial triplet and long note. The Viola part has a long note (F3) marked *f* with a first octave sign (I 8va). The Violoncello part has a long note (F2) marked *p* with a fourth octave sign (IV).

Fast, alert and sudden (♩=180)

Musical score for Harp. The score is in 4/4 time and features a tempo of 180 beats per minute. The Harp part begins with a triplet of eighth notes (F4, G4, A4) marked *f*, followed by a triplet of eighth notes (B4, C5, D5) marked *f* and *poco*, and then a triplet of eighth notes (E5, F5, G5) marked *f*. The score includes a first octave sign (I 8va) and a *bisbigliando* marking. The Harp part concludes with a long note (F4) marked *p* and a first octave sign (I 8va).

Harmonics are written where they are produced, sounding an octave higher.

4 **A** Moderato, peaceful (♩=100)

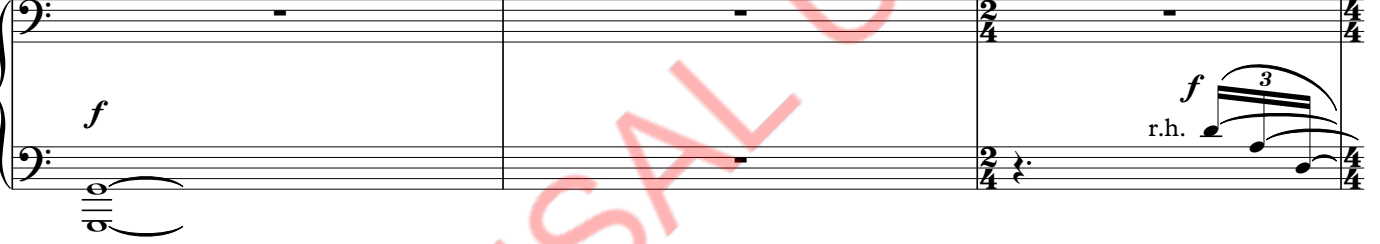
Cl. 

Vln. 

Vla. 

Vc. 

A Moderato, peaceful (♩=100)
l.v.

Hp. 

7

Cl. 

Vln. 

Vla. 

Vc. 

Hp. 

B

10

Cl. *p cantabile*

Vln. *pp*

Vla.

Vc. *gl.* III

Hp. *p f like echo p*

sfz

B

13

Cl. *mp* free, improvisation-like with a lot of air and clicks

Vln. III IV

Vla.

Vc.

Hp. *p* low knock *sfz*

sfz

6 16

Cl. *p*

Vln. *mp-pp*

Vla.

Vc.

Hp. *p f p*

sfz

19 *simile*

Cl. *3* *3*

Vln. III IV

Vla. *bend up to note*

Vc.

Hp. *p f p*

sfz

low knock

22

Cl. *p* *pp* *f*

Vln. *p free, improvisatory* *f*

Vla. *f* *gentler*

Vc. *arco* *p* *f*

Hp. *p* *f* *p* *mf* *low knock* *sfz*

26

Cl. *p* *# tr*

Vln. *p*

Vla. *pizz.* *p*

Vc. *pizz.* *mf warm*

Hp. *mf* *freely* *pp* *3* *l.v.*

D

31

Cl. *mf* blend with violin, suggesting an accordion

Vln. *mf* blend with clarinet, non vibrato, suggesting an accordion

Vla. *mp*

Vc.

Hp. *sfz* *mf*

low knock

free, improvisation-like

II 3 II

35

Cl. 5 5

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

Hp. *sfz* *pp* *p*

high glisses ad lib.

gliss. *gliss.*

dazed and confused

38

Cl.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

Hp.

mf

41

Cl.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

Hp.

pp

sfz

high glisses
ad lib.

gliss.

gliss.

p

G^b

44

free

Cl. *poco a poco cresc.*

Vln. *poco a poco cresc.*

Vla.

Vc.

Hp. *sfz* *mf poco a poco cresc.*

46

Cl. *f* *p*

Vln. *f*

Vla. *f* *p* *f* arco

Vc. *f* *p* *f* arco

Hp. *f*

♢ dump all except for *ff* this chord

E Rhythmic and very steady, don't rush

49

Cl.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

mf

f

pizz.

IV

IV

IV

IV

IV

E Rhythmic and very steady, don't rush

Hp.

f

(non harm.)

53

Cl.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

Hp.

f

growl

ord.

simile

IV

IV

IV

IV

sfz

57

Cl. *f*

Vln. *f*

Vla. *IV* *IV* *IV* *IV* *simile*

Vc. *IV* *IV* *IV*

Hp.

60

Cl. *p*

Vln. *SOLO* *f espress.* *3* *gliss.*

Vla.

Vc.

Hp.

F

62 *free*

Cl. *f*

Vln. *3*

Vla. *3*

Vc.

Hp. *f*
sfz

65 *free*

Cl. *pp* *f*

Vln. *3*

Vla. *3*

Vc.

Hp. *sfz*

68

Cl. *ff*

Vln. *p* *ff*

Vla. arco *mp* *f*

Vc. arco *mp* *f*

Hp. *submp* *f*

70

Cl. *pp* *p* **Long**

Vln. *pp* *p* *pp*

Vla. SOLO *f espress.* *p* *pp*

Vc. arco 3 *f*

Hp. ϕ dump all except for this chord **Long**

G Energetic and very steady (♩=100)

Andante Rubato

74

Cl. *slap tongue* *f* *ord.* *pp ruminating, melancholic*

Vln.

Vla.

Vc. *pizz.* *f* *arco* *f* *arco 3* *pizz.* *sfz*

G Energetic and very steady (♩=100)

Andante Rubato

Hp. *f* *G#* *D# Eb* *Db* *Gb* *pp*

A tempo (♩=90)

79

Cl. *slap tongue* *f*

Vln.

Vla.

Vc. *arco* *f* *arco 3* *pizz.* *arco* *f*

A tempo (♩=90)

Hp. *f* *G#* *D# G#* *Db* *G#*

81 simile

Cl.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc. pizz. arco 3 pizz. sfz

Hp. D \sharp G \sharp G \sharp D \flat

molto vib.

molto vib.

84 flz.

Cl.

Vln. knock f

Vla. fp all glisses

Vc. pizz. ff gl.

Hp. f perpetuum mobile mf

H Presto, very steady, don't rush (♩=200)

H Presto, very steady, don't rush (♩=200)

89

Cl. *fz.*

Vln. *f* simile

Vla. *fp*

Vc. *ff*

Hp. *f*

94

Cl. *ord.*

Vln. *pp* distant and spooky, blend with violin

Vla. *pp* distant and spooky, blend with clarinet

Vc. *gl.* *ff*

Hp. *mf* *f*

99

Cl.

Vln. *simile*
f

Vla.

Vc.

Hp. *mf*

102

Cl.

Vln. *non vib. IV* gradually to *molto vib., melting into clarinet* *f*

Vla.

Vc.

Hp. *f*

I

105

Cl. *p cantabile but rhythmic* bend up to note gl.

Vln. *subp* IV

Vla. *fp arco*

Vc. *f* *p*

Hp. *mf* **I**

110

Cl. *f arco*

Vln. *f*

Vla. (no glisses) *fmp* III

Vc. *subf* 6

Hp. *f* *gl.* *gliss.* *G#* *mp*

114

Cl. *f*

Vln. *f*

Vla. *fmp*

Vc.

Hp.

6

7

II

A \flat

B \flat
A \sharp

118

Cl. *fp*

Vln. non vib. *fp*

Vla. *f* *mf* sul C

Vc. *mf*

Hp. *f*

121 *flz.*

Cl.

Vln. *espress. vib.*

Vla.

Vc.

Hp. *gl. p gliss.*

123

Cl. *f p f p f*

Vln. *percussive* *f* *pizz.* *arco* *f* *pizz.* *arco*

Vla. *f groovy* *gl.* *gl.*

Vc. *f rhythmic* *pizz.* *vib.*

Hp. *f groovy* *D \flat E \sharp mid-range knock (Cb)*

127

Cl. *p* *f cantabile but rhythmic* SOLI

Vln. *pizz.* *ff*

Vla. *gl.* *f cantabile but rhythmic* SOLI

Vc. *subp*

Hp. *subp*

131

Cl. *tr* *flz.*

Vln. *arco* *tr* *pp*

Vla. *pp*

Vc. *tr*

Hp. *F#* *E#*

135 ord.

Cl. *fp* *f*

Vln. *f* *f* *rhythmic* *gl.*

Vla. *fp* *f*

Vc. *f* *arco*

Hp. *B \sharp* *G \sharp* *F \sharp* *D \sharp* *gl.* *gliss.* *C \sharp* *F \sharp* *as before*

139

Cl. *b \flat*

Vln. *gl.* *gl.* *gl.* **SOLO**

Vla. *espress.*

Vc. *espress.*

Hp.

143

Cl. *subpp* *espress.*

Vln. *mf* *poco a poco cresc.*

Vla. *subp* *espress.*

Vc. *f* *subpp but tense*

Hp. *fpp* C#

146

Cl. *f*

Vln. *f*

Vla. *f*

Vc. *ff*

Hp. *gliss.* 7 *gliss.*

K

147

Cl.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc. **SOLO**
f assertive
fp spooky

Hp. **K** knock, dry mid-range like cowbell
ff ϕ *f*

152

Cl.

Vln. **ord.**
subpp funky and cool, don't rush

Vla. **spiccato** let string vibrate between strikes
f *pp*

Vc. *fp* ϕ *f*

Hp.

157 *flz.*

Cl. *f* *p* *mp* **3**

Vln. *poco a poco cresc.*

Vla. *poco a poco cresc.*

Vc. *f* **3**

Hp.

160 *flz.* *ord.*

Cl. *fp* *f* *p* *f*

Vln. *f espress.* **SOLO** **3** **3**

Vla.

Vc. *fp* *f*

Hp.

L

163

Cl. *subp* 3 3 3 3 5 *p* 3 3 3

Vln. *mf* let string vibrate between strikes *spiccato*

Vla. *mf*

Vc. *mf*

Hp. *f* 8^{va}

L

167

Cl. *p* 3 3

Vln. bend down at end

Vla.

Vc.

Hp. (loco) 8^{va}

170

Cl. *f* *f* *fp* *p* *f*

Vln. *f* *fp* *f*

Vla. *f* *fp* *f*

Vc. *f* *fp* *f*

Hp. knock, dry mid-range like cowbell *f*

174

Cl. *f* *fp* *p* *f* ord.

Vln. ord. *p* *poco a poco cresc.*

Vla. *f* *fp* *f*

Vc. (2) *f* *fp* *f*

Hp.

M

178

ord.

Cl. *f* *fp* *p* *f*

Vln. (*mf*)

Vla. *fp* *f*

Vc. *fp* *f*

Hp.

M

182

ord.

Cl. *f* *fp* *f*

Vln. *f* *ff espress.*

Vla. *fp* *f* *ff espress.*

Vc. *fp* *f* *ff*

Hp. *p*

30 **N**

186

Cl.

ff espress.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

3

Hp.

ff

gliss.

gliss.

gliss.

gliss.

188

Cl.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

Hp.

gliss.

gliss.

gliss.

gliss.

190

Cl.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

Hp.

gliss.

gliss.

gliss.

gliss.

gliss.

gliss.

gliss.

3

8va

L.H.

gliss.

gliss.

gliss.

Cb
E \sharp

G \sharp
B \sharp

D \flat
E \sharp

Δ

192

Cl.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

Hp.

tr

tr

tr

gliss.

gliss.

gliss.

gliss.

gliss.

gliss.

Slower, rubato

subp

Slower, rubato

R.H.

L.H.

R.H.

O A tempo

196

Cl.

Vln.

Vla. *pizz.*
f funky and cool,
don't rush

Vc. *sul pont.*
pp

O A tempo

Hp.

200

Cl.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

Hp. *p* intense,
building-up energy

205

Cl. *poco sul pont. 1/4 tone sharp*
f intense

Vln. *poco sul pont. 1/4 tone sharp*
f intense

Vla. *poco sul pont. 1/4 tone sharp*
f intense

Vc. *poco sul pont. 1/4 tone sharp*
f intense

Hp. *poco a poco cresc.*

210

Cl. *bend up to note*

Vln. *bend up to note*

Vla. *bend up to note*

Vc. *bend up to note*

Hp.

213

Cl. *ff*

Vln. *f* *mf*

Vla. *ff*

Vc. *f* 3 3 3

Hp. *gliss.*

214

Cl. *mf* *ff* painful

Vln. *f* *mechanical* *arco* 3 (4)

Vla. *ff* *agressive*

Vc. *ff* *agressive* 3

Hp. *ff* B \sharp G \sharp *ff* painful

225

Cl. *ff*

slower than tempo; with harp, independently from the rest

play and sing

3

Vln. (12)

Vla.

Vc.

Harp

ff

3

3

3

B \flat F \sharp

4 \sharp F \flat

D \sharp A \sharp

B \sharp

228

Cl.

Vln. (16)

Vla.

Vc.

Harp

subp

3

subpp energetic

3

subpp energetic

Q

230

Cl.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

poco a poco cresc.

mp energetic

Q

Hp.

poco a poco cresc.

E \flat E \sharp D \flat G \flat G \sharp A \sharp A \flat C \sharp A \sharp

||

233

Cl.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

poco a poco cresc.

mf energetic

Hp.

C \sharp E \flat E \sharp D \flat G \flat G \sharp A \sharp

235 **poco rit.**

Cl. *f*

Vln. *poco a poco cresc.*

Vla.

Vc.

Hp. *poco rit.*

238 **A tempo**

Cl. *ff shrilling*
poco sul pont.

Vln. *ff shrilling*
poco sul pont.

Vla. *ff shrilling*

Vc. *ffz*
A tempo

Hp. *ff*

240

Cl.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

Hp.

gliss.

C# F# F# A# C# A#

3 3 3

R Poco Sostenuto (♩=160)

243

Cl.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

Hp.

rit. growl

ff dramatic

ff dramatic

ff dramatic

ff dramatic

ff dramatic

play triplets while glissing

3 3 3 3

gliss.

5

flz. ord.

R Poco Sostenuto (♩=160)

Hp.

rit.

ff dramatic

gliss.

8va

l.v. *p*

248

Cl.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

Hp.

gradually to

sul pont. etc. ad lib.

pp ominous, ever-changing colors

mf grave *fp* *pp*

253

Cl.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

Hp.

sul pont.

pp spooky

SOLO

p sad

l.v.

ff

S

257

Cl. *ff* ord. *pp* flz. ord. *pp*

Vln. *ff* ord. *p* IV

Vla. *ff* ord. *p* III *8va* (•)

Vc. *ff* *p* *p lamenting*

Hp. *gliss.* *bisbigliando* l.v. *p*

264

Cl. SOLO *p sad*

Vln. *pp* *slow tremolo, gradually accel. sul pont.*

Vla. *pp* *slow tremolo, gradually accel. sul pont.*

Vc. *pp*

Hp. *pp*

272

Cl.

Vln. *flautando*
pp

Vla. *pizz.*
p gentile

Vc. *flautando*
pp

Hp. *p meaningful*



T Andante, meditative (♩=70)

280

Cl.
mf like a sudden ray of light

Vln.
mf like a sudden ray of light

Vla. *arco*
pp flautando

Vc. *pp flautando*

T Andante, meditative (♩=70)

Hp. *mf like echo* *pp* *l.v. sempre* *simile* *E♭* *E♯* *l.v.*

U

free, improvisation-like,
airy, almost only key clicks

285

Cl. *p* *pp*

Vln. non vib. *mf* *mp*

Vla. non vib. *mf* *mp*

Vc. non vib. *mf* *mp*

mf match others
like an accordion

mf match others
like an accordion

mf match others
like an accordion

U

Hp. Eb

291

Cl. 3 3 3

Vln. *p*

Vla. 3 *p*

Vc. *p*

Hp.

294

Cl. *mp*

Vln. *mp*

Vla. *mp*

Vc. *ppp* dramatic
grad. to sul pont.

low knock *mf* dramatic

Hp.

298

Cl. *p* *pp* as before

Vln. *mp*

Vla. *mp*

Vc. *mp*

ord.

Hp.

304

Cl. *p* *ppp* dramatic

Vln. *p*

Vla. *p*

Vc. *p* *ppp* dramatic

Hp. *mf* dramatic

grad. to

low knock

311

Cl. *p* exhausted *pp* *pp* *rit.*

Vln. *p* exhausted *pp*

Vla. *p* exhausted *pp*

Vc. *pp* *gliss.* *gliss.* *gliss.* *gliss.* *gliss.*

Hp. *pp* *rit.*

bend up to note

harm. gliss. sul C ad lib. sul pont.

sul pont.

W Thoughtful (♩=80)

Peaceful, slightly slower than first theme (♩=90)

319

Cl. *p* *pp*

Vln. III II

Vla. *p*

Vc. SOLO *pizz.* *gl.* *mf* warm and nostalgic

W Thoughtful (♩=80)

Peaceful, slightly slower than first theme (♩=90)

finish ascending to top while rit.

Hp. *pp* high glisses ad lib. *p* special, resonating

325

Cl. *p* *pp* rit. long

Vln. *pp*

Vla. *pp* I

Vc. *pp*

Hp. *pp* rit. long SOLO *p* sad cantabile

X Andante rubato (♩=60)

331

Cl.

Vln.

Vla. *III II*
p sad, cantabile
3

Vc. *arco*
pp sad, cantabile

X Andante rubato (♩=60)

Hp. *D⁺ Eb F⁺*
6 [or as harm.] 3 6

334

Cl. *SOLO*
p

Vln.

Vla. *IV*
3

Vc. *espress. mp*

Hp. *D^b E⁺ B^b*
6 3 6

337

Cl. *pp*

Vln. *mf espress. and warm* *p*

Vla. *mf espress. and warm* *p*

Vc. *mf espress. and warm* *p*

Hp. *mf espress. and warm* *p*

339

Cl. *ppp*

Vln. *ppp*

Vla. *p* *3* *3* non vib. SOLI *p* gradually add...

Vc. *ppp* non vib. SOLI *p* gradually add...

Hp. *ppp* *8va*

Y ♩=♩. (♩.=60)

341

Cl. *pp* *gentile*
con sord.
fluatando

Vln. *pp* *gentile*
vib.

Vla. *mp* *espress., cantabile*
vib.

Vc. *mp* *espress., cantabile*

Y ♩=♩. (♩.=60)

Hp. *p* *gentile*
gliss.

G_b F_# gliss. l.v.

343

Cl. *p*

Vln. *p*

Vla. *p*

Vc. *p*

Hp. *p*
A_b D_# G_# gliss.

345

Cl.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

Hp.

p B# F#

Fb Eb

gliss.

4

347

Cl.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

Hp.

p C# Ab

B# G#

F#

gliss.

SOLO

5:3

p lonely

ppp

Z ♩ = 50

349

Cl.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

pp
p espress.
p
(+)
(arco)
(+)

Z ♩ = 50

Hp.

pp
p
pp

355

Cl.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

Hp.

p sad
pp
p
pp
pp
p
pp
pp
p
pp
mp
D
D#

I
II

harm. gliss.
transparent

ord.

5:3

3

4:3

360

Cl. *add vib.*

Vln. *pp simile p*

Vla. *pp p pp add vib.*

Vc. *subp p sad*

Hp. *ppp improvisation-like p ppp simile*

364

Cl. *pp 3 3 simile*

Vln. *simile*

Vla. *p simile pp*

Vc. *simile*

Hp. *gl. not too fast D# D#*

367

Cl. *ppp* 3 3

Vln. *pp*

Vla. *pp*

Vc. *pp*

Hp. *gl.* *pp* D# *f* 3

The musical score consists of five staves: Clarinet (Cl.), Violin (Vln.), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Harp (Hp.). The music is in 4/4 time. Measure 367 features a clarinet part with two triplet eighth notes marked *ppp*. The violin and viola parts have long, sustained notes with tremolos above them, marked *pp*. The cello part has a long, sustained note marked *pp*. The harp part has a glissando marked *gl.* in the first half of the measure, followed by chords in the second half, marked *pp* and *f*. A triplet of eighth notes is marked with a bracket and the number 3 in the final measure of the system.

FOR PERUSAL USE ONLY

AA ♩=♩ (Tempo Primo, ♩=180)

372

Cl. *f* *pp*

Vln. non sord. *f* *pp*

Vla. *f* *pp*

Vc. *p* *pizz.* *p* *pp*

AA ♩=♩ (Tempo Primo, ♩=180)

Hp. *p* *pp*

l.v.

December 2017
Ridgewood, NJ, USA