

**George Morton**

**MARGRATEN**  
**STRING QUARTET**

*for String Quartet and Tam-Tam*



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# MARGRATEN STRING QUARTET

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|---|
| I. Court of Honor<br>II. War, Relentless War<br>III. Aftermath<br>IV. Elegy |
|---|

## **Notation Key**

- 1) Tam-Tam to be placed between Vla and VC within easy reach.
- 2) = dampen string with left hand, pitchless 'rubbing' sound.
- 3) b.100 Vla & Vc seamlessly change from note-harmonic-dampened string by slowly pressing or depressing finger.

George Morton

## MARGRATEN STRING QUARTET

*for String Quartet and Tam Tam*

Margraten String Quartet was written after the composer visited the American war cemetery, of the same name, in Maastricht, The Netherlands. The quartet starts as if one is standing in the Court of Honor, the memorial built in memory of the thousands that lost their lives in the Second World War. As the piece progresses we are transported back to 1944, as war is relentless destroying many young lives. Moments of quiet reflection and interspersed with those of complete despair. The quartet ends hopefully, looking forward to peace and tranquility.

Duration c. 10 mins 30 secss

# MARGRATEN STRING QUARTET

## I. COURT OF HONOR

**Lento** ♩=c.40 **sombre with a sense of stillness**

con sord., sul tasto,  
sempre senza vib.

Violin I *pp*  
con sord., sul tasto,  
sempre senza vib.

Violin II *pp*  
con sord., sul tasto,  
sempre senza vib.

Viola *pp*  
con sord., sul tasto,  
sempre senza vib.

Violoncello *p*

III

II

5

ord. → sul pont.

*ff*

ord. → sul pont.

*ff*

ord. → sul pont.

*gliss.*

*ff*

*pp*

ord.

ord.

ord.

*pp*

ord.

ord.

*pp*

port.

*pp*

sempre *p*

**poco accel.**

9

*p*

*p*

*p*

*p*

*cresc.*

*cresc.*

*cresc.*

*cresc.*

ord. → sul pont.

*f*

*f*

*f*

*f*

*p*

*cresc.*

*pesante*

*sfp*

senza sord.

III

II

♩=40

2 13

$\overset{\curvearrowright}{\text{3}} = \text{3}$

**A**

$\text{♩} = 120$  a little more urgenty

20

Meno mosso  $\text{♩} = 90$

**B**

34

flautando  
spicc., sul pont.

nat. *pp*  
col legno *pppp*  
nat. *fp*

*p*  
nat. *pp*  
col legno *pp*  
nat. *fp*

*pp*

38

**C**

**molto rit.** **A tempo (♩=40) inconsolable, despairing**

*mf*  
*ff espress.*

*mf*  
*ff*

*mf*  
*ff*

*mf*  
*ff*

*ff pesante* *sfp*

42

ord. → flautando  
vib. → senza vib.

*dim.* *p*

*f* → *mf* *dim.*

*f* → *mf* *dim.*

*mf* *dim.*

spicc. *p*

4 46

**fading, with abandonment**  
sempre senza vib.

spicc.  
*p*

IV  
senza vib.  
*p* *mp*

solo  
*p espress.*  
senza vib.

senza vib.  
*p*

49

*pp*

*fff*

*pp secco*

*pp*

*pp secco*

*pp*

*pp secco*

**Tentatively**

**II. WAR, RELENTLESS WAR**

52  $\text{♩} = 60$

*mf*

*mf*

*mp echo*

$\text{♩} = 40$

*mf*

$\text{♩} = 80$

*col legno*

$\text{♩} = 40$

*col legno*

*p echo*



**murmuring, rippling**

56 [c.10"] Continually loop pattern at own speed, don't sync with other players, follow leader for dynamics

[c.10"]

*ff*

Continually loop pattern at own speed, don't sync with other players, follow leader for dynamics

*ff*

Continually loop pattern at own speed, don't sync with other players, follow leader for dynamics

*ff*

Continually loop pattern at own speed, don't sync with other players, follow leader for dynamics

*ff*

61 ♩=160 aggressively arco *mp spicc.* poco rall. [♩=120] *p*

*mp spicc.*

*p*

*mp spicc.*

*mp spicc.*

*p*

*mp spicc.*

*p*

65 ♩=160 *p espress.* poco rall. *p*

*p espress.*

*p*

*p*

*p*

6  
69  $\text{♩} = 160$   
[vln II]

ord.  $mp$  ord.  $mf$  3  
*p espress.* *cresc.*

ord.  $mf$   $f$  sul pont. 1. 2.  $mf$   $mf$   $mp$   $mp$   $p$   $p$   
sul pont.  $f$   $mp$   $mp$   $p$   
sul pont.  $mf$   $f$   $p$   $p$   
wildly  $f$

77 **rall.**  $\text{♩} = 122$  sul pont.  $sfzp$  sul pont.  $sfzp$  pizz.  $p$  arco  $mp$   $f$   $mf$

81 ord.  $mp$  ord.  $mp$   $mp$   $mp$   $mp$

85 *sul pont.* *ord.* *f* *cresc.* *ord.* *cresc.*

88 *fff* *fff* *fff* *fff* *fff* *p*

92 **Grave** (♩=c.40) **III. AFTERMATH**

*p flautando, ghostly* *p coldly* *pp mp*

96 *mp flautando, ghostly* *sfz* *mp*

100

ord. *ppp* dampen

ord. *ppp* dampen

103 *gliss. between chords* **Senza rit.**

*ff* *p*

*gliss. between chords*

*ff* *p*

*gliss. between chords*

*ff* *mf*

*gliss. between chords*

*ff* *mp*

106 [Tam-Tam]

[Tam-Tam] *p*

*ppp*

*ppp*

*p* *ppp*

*mp* *p* *p*

[T-T]

IV. Elegy

♩=60 throughout. solemn, subdued

Begin when tam-tam note begins to fade

con sord

Point of bow, sul pont.

con sord

con sord

III

IV

ppp

p

p

p

con sord

p espress.

c.8"

start after vln.II c.12"

[T-T]

p

110

senza vib.

senza vib.

senza vib.

senza vib.

pp

pp

pp

pp

p

[T-T]

p

114

Point of bow, sul pont.

ppp

p fleetingly

ff

pp

pp

pp

pp subito



rit. . .

116

$\text{♩} = 50$  despairing, sorrowful

poco rall.

$\text{♩} = 40$  sanguine, a little optimistic