

CRISTINA SPINEI

WALL FLOWERS
viola



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Commissioned by Intersection Ensemble as part of their LISTEN initiative

Inspired by the art of Nashville-based design duo New Hat

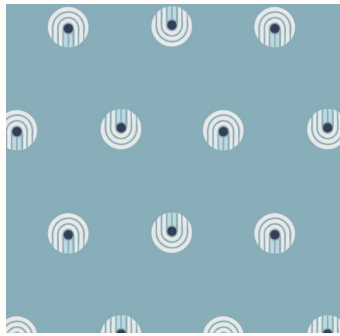
ABOUT THE MUSIC



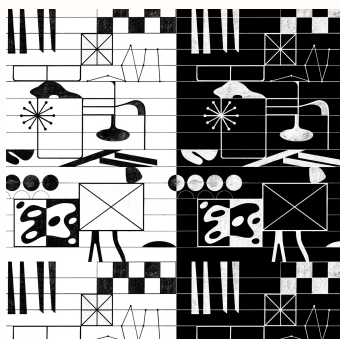
Minerva in Candy Stripe - I love the swooping lines juxtaposed by the fixed, interlocking circles in this design. The viola mimics the motion of this pattern, starting with a free-flowing scale and diving into a higher repeated motive. I wanted to capture the back and forth between movement and stasis.



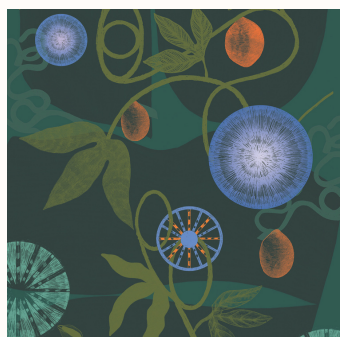
Wired - The actual title of this design is Tree of Life. I decided to call it Wired for two reasons: the lines resemble electronic circuits and this design is hanging up in Nashville coffee shop 8th and Roast. The viola's music for Wired is rhythmic and bright, mimicking the energy and exuberance of this pattern.



Suspended in Blue (Dot Comb - Blue) - Every Suite needs a slow movement and this relaxing, minimal design was the perfect inspiration for an adagio viola moment. The music starts high in the viola's register with a pensive melody that slowly meanders toward darker colors. It settles back up high, remaining suspended in its melancholic reflection.



Black & White - This design reminded me of experimental music notation so I wanted to bring an element of extended techniques to this movement. Black & White uses glissando, pizzicato, and my favorite – chopping, to illustrate the contrast between sound and silence. I imagine the violist looking at this wallpaper while playing and translating it into sound.



Wall Flowers - The flowers in this design are passion flowers, the state wildflower of Tennessee. To keep with the theme, the music is inspired by our state song *Tennessee*. I chose Wall Flowers as the title for the entire suite because of this pattern and because I think of the viola as a shy instrument. It has a special beauty and power that I hope comes across in this piece.

Commissioned by Intersection, inspired by New Hat

1. MINERVA IN CANDY STRIPE

Cristina Spinei (2020)

♩ = 88

mf

4

7

f

10

mp

13

f

16

sub. mp *mf* *f*

19

mp leggero *poco rit.* *p*

Detailed description: This is a musical score for a piano piece titled "1. MINERVA IN CANDY STRIPE" by Cristina Spinei (2020). The score is written in bass clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a 4/4 time signature. The tempo is marked as quarter note = 88. The piece consists of seven staves of music. The first staff begins with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The second staff is marked with a measure rest and a 2/4 time signature change. The third staff features a forte (*f*) dynamic and includes accents. The fourth staff is marked mezzo-piano (*mp*) and includes accents. The fifth staff is marked forte (*f*) and includes accents. The sixth staff shows dynamic changes from *sub. mp* to *mf* to *f*. The seventh staff begins with *mp leggero*, includes a *poco rit.* marking, and ends with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The score is characterized by intricate rhythmic patterns, including sixteenth and thirty-second notes, and frequent use of slurs and accents.

2. WIRED

1 $\text{♩} = 112$

f playfully *mf*

5

f

10

14

mf *f*

18

23

27

pizz.

3. SUSPENDED IN BLUE

♩ = 63
sul tasto

1

mf freely > mp > p

7

norm.

mf > poco f >

12

sul tasto

mp > molto rit. p > pp

Detailed description: The score is for a piece titled '3. SUSPENDED IN BLUE' on page 3. It consists of three systems of musical notation. The first system (measures 1-6) is in treble clef, 4/4 time, with a tempo of quarter note = 63. It starts with 'sul tasto' and dynamics of *mf freely*, *mp*, and *p*. The second system (measures 7-11) is in bass clef, 4/4 time, with dynamics of *mf*, *poco*, and *f*. The third system (measures 12-15) is in bass clef, 4/4 time, with dynamics of *mp* and *pp*, and includes the instruction 'molto rit.' with a dotted line. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

4. BLACK & WHITE

$\text{♩} = 72$

1 *pizz.*

f *mf*

5 *arco*
chopping

mp *p* *ff* *mf* *f* *mf*

8 *f* *mp*

11 *arco* *sul tasto* *norm.*

ff *p* *f*

14 *sul tasto* *pizz.*

p *f* *mf*

17 *f* *ff*

The musical score is written for a double bass in G major, 4/4 time, with a tempo of quarter note = 72. It consists of six systems of music. The first system (measures 1-4) is marked 'pizz.' and features a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with accents, starting at *f* and moving to *mf*. The second system (measures 5-7) is marked 'arco chopping' and features a pattern of chords with 'x' marks, with dynamics *mp*, *p*, *ff*, *mf*, *f*, and *mf*. The third system (measures 8-10) continues the 'arco chopping' pattern, starting at *f* and ending at *mp*. The fourth system (measures 11-13) is marked 'arco', 'sul tasto', and 'norm.', with dynamics *ff*, *p*, and *f*. The fifth system (measures 14-16) is marked 'sul tasto' and 'pizz.', with dynamics *p*, *f*, and *mf*. The sixth system (measures 17-18) features a melodic line with dynamics *f* and *ff*.

5. WALL FLOWERS

1 $\text{♩} = 66$

mf mysteriously

4

mp *mf* *f*

7 *poco rit.* *A tempo*

mp *p* *mf*

10

f

12

p

15 *poco rit.* *pizz.*

f *pizz.*