

Michael Karmon

Frets Vs. Fretless

for two guitars and string quartet

Duration ca. 8'30"

Performance note: This piece showcases the guitars, with the string quartet acting essentially as an accompaniment. It is therefore imperative that the string quartet players be constantly sensitive to the balance of the ensemble as a whole, and avoid overpowering the guitars.

Written for Bob Scarano
Dedicated to the Guitar Pals
Frets Vs. Fretless

Michael Karmon (1995)

Brisk and bright with forward momentum ♩ = ca. 68 (♩ = ca. 204)

The musical score is arranged in two systems. The first system includes staves for Guitar I, Guitar II, Violin I, Violin II, Viola, and Cello. The second system includes staves for Guitar I, Guitar II, Violin I, Violin II, Viola, and Cello, starting at measure 5. The score is in 3/8 time and features a key signature of one flat. Dynamics range from *sfz* to *pp*. Performance instructions include *strum*, *non arp.*, *spicc.*, *sempre staccato*, *pizz.*, *ponticello*, *sostenuto*, and *sim.*

System 1:

- Guitar I:** *sfz* (strum), *f* (l.v.)
- Guitar II:** *sfz* (strum), *f* (l.v.)
- Violin I:** *sfz*
- Violin II:** *sfz non arp.*
- Viola:** *sfz non arp.*, *p* *spicc.*, *sempre staccato*
- Cello:** *sfz*, *mp* *pizz.*

System 2 (starting at measure 5):

- Gtr. I:** *p* *sub.* (l.v.) *ponticello*
- Gtr. II:** *p* *sub.* (l.v.) *ponticello*
- VI. I:** *pp* *sostenuto*
- VI. II:** *pp* *sostenuto*
- Vla.:** *pp* *sim.*
- Cello:** *pp*

9

ord.

ponticello

Gtr. I

f sub.

p sub.
ponticello

Gtr. II

ord.

f sub.

p sub.

VI. I

f

pp

VI. II

f

pp

Vla.

p

sim.

pp

Cello

mp

pp

12

ord.

Gtr. I

f sub.

ord.

Gtr. II

f sub.

VI. I

f

VI. II

f

Vla.

sim.

p

Cello

mp

16 A

Gtr. I

Gtr. II

VI. I

VI. II

Vla.

Cello

f non legato

p

f

f

f

f

20

Gtr. I

Gtr. II

non-legato

24

Gtr. I

Gtr. II

mp

mf

(l.v.)

(l.v.)

B

29

Gtr. I

Gtr. II

VI. I

VI. II

Vla.

Cello

p

mp

ff

f

mf

mp

pizz.

arco

sim.

36

Gtr. I

Gtr. II

VI. I

VI. II

Vla.

Cello

f

f

f

f

strum

41

Gr. I

Gr. II

VI. I

VI. II

Vla.

Cello

strum

p sub.

p sub. espress.

p

mf

fp

mf

p sub.

sim.

sim.

arco.

fp

mf

p sub. pizz.

p sub.

47

Gr. I

Gr. II

VI. I

VI. II

Vla.

Cello

C

53

Gtr. I *ff* (still strum)

Gtr. II *ff* (still strum)

VI. I *ff*

VI. II *ff*

Vla. *ff* *f* marcato

Cello *f* arco marcato

55

Gtr. I trem. *sfz* *sfz*

Gtr. II trem. *sfz* *sfz*

VI. I *f* marcato *p* sub. *mf* smooth

VI. II *p* sub. *sfz* *mf* smooth

Vla. *ff* *p* sub. *sfz* *sfz*

Cello *p* sub. *sfz*

58

Gtr. I

Gtr. II

VI. I

VI. II

Vla.

Cello

D

sfz

sfz

ff

f

mf

arco.

f

61

Gtr. I

Gtr. II

VI. I

VI. II

Vla.

Cello

arco

sul tasto

pp

pp

pp

p

5

64

Gtr. I
harp-like sul tasto *mf* V VII V

Gtr. II
harp-like sul tasto *mf* III

VI. I
pizz. *p* arco

VI. II
pizz. *p* arco

Vla.
pizz. *p* arco

Cello
fpp

67

Gtr. I
VI VIII

Gtr. II
III V

VI. I
a niente *p* pizz.

VI. II
a niente *p* pizz.

Vla.
a niente *p* pizz.

Cello
5 *fpp*

70

Gtr. I

Gtr. II

VI. I

VI. II

Vla.

Cello

arco

arco

arco

V

5

1/2 C. VIII

1/2 C. VI

p

p

p

fpp

72

Gtr. I

Gtr. II

VI. I

VI. II

Vla.

Cello

VIII

Slight and gradual Rit.

senza vib. (gliss starts on beat 2)

quick gliss

mp

pp

senza vib.

quick gliss

mp

p

senza vib.

quick gliss

mp

p

pp

E Very freely with regard to tempo and dynamics (♩ = ca. 62)

77

Gtr. I *p secco* (*mp - mf*) (Accidentals do not transfer across dotted bar lines.)

Gtr. II

VI. I a niente

VI. II a niente

Vla. a niente

Cello (Cut off when guitar comes in.)

80

Gtr. I Accel. Rit.

81

Gtr. I

82

Gtr. I Accel. Rit.

X VI

F Very freely with regard to tempo and dynamics (♩ = ca. 62)

83

Gtr. II (*mf - f*) Grace notes begin before the beat.

84

Gtr. II

(Accidentals do not transfer across dotted bar lines.)

85

Gtr. II

Rit. -----

5va -----

nat. harm.

f *f*

Accel. ---

86

Gtr. II

VII XII

nat. harm.

m *ff*

ponticello

sul tasto

Suddenly slower, deliberate (♩ = ca. 52-58)

89

Gtr. II

Rit. -----

ponticello

ord.

sul tasto

art. harm.

p

93

Gtr. I

Gtr. II

G A little faster, playfully and free (♩ = ca. 78)

mp sempre legato

pp (secco)

mf

3

Accel. -----

pp

98

Gtr. I

Gtr. II

Poco rit. -----

A tempo

p

pizz.

p *pp*

A tempo, Accel. ----- Rit. -----

102

Gtr. I

Gtr. II

tenderly

p (warm tone)

f *mf*

sul tasto

C. IV

p sub.

6

mp

A little slower, still free (♩ = ca. 70)

108 broadly

Gtr. I nat. harm. *pp* 3

Gtr. II *p* 6 6 *pp* 3 6

112 Poco stringendo

Gtr. I XII *mf* 6

Gtr. II C. VI art. harm. *pp* *p* sub. *mf* 6

117 Poco accel. (♩ = ca. 76)

Gtr. I *p* gently 6 *f*

Gtr. II *p* gently *f*

119 Rit.

Gtr. I *p* *mf* 3/4

Gtr. II *p* *mf* 3/4

121 long

Gtr. I *p* long

Gtr. II *p* long

(7''-20'')

Very slow, accel. poco a poco

as fast as possible

123

Gtr. I *pp* cresc. poco a poco *pp* cresc. poco a poco

Gtr. II *pp* cresc. poco a poco

repeat pattern

repeat pattern

H $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 104$ Molto Rit.

$\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 78$

Poco stringendo

Poco rit.

124

Gtr. I (cue guitar II and cello) *p* *mf*

Gtr. II

VI. I con sord. *mf*

VI. II con sord. senza vib. *p* *mf*

Vla. con sord. senza vib. *p* *mf*

Cello con sord. espress. (solo) *mf* *p* *mf*

130 Poco stringendo

Poco rit.

Gtr. I *p* *f*

Gtr. II *p* *f*

VI. I ponticello *p* *f* trem.

VI. II ponticello *p* *f* trem.

Vla. ponticello *f* trem.

Cello

K

159

C. VIII

Gtr. I

Gtr. II

VI. I

VI. II

Vla.

Cello

p sub. *f*

f *pp* sub. *mf*

pp *mf*

p *mf*

167

marcato

Gtr. I

Gtr. II

VI. I

VI. II

Vla.

Cello

p *f*

p *f*

p *mp* *f*

pp *mp* *f* molto marcato

pp *mp* *f* molto marcato

strum

pizz.

L

175

Gtr. I

Gtr. II

VI. I

VI. II

Vla.

Cello

arco
molto marcato

pizz.
f

put bow aside

p sub.

182

Gtr. I

Gtr. II

VI. I

VI. II

Vla.

Cello

p

p

p 4

188

Gtr. I

Gtr. II

VI. I

VI. II

Vla.

Cello

p

mf

4

194

Gtr. I

Gtr. II

VI. I

VI. II

Vla.

Cello

sfz

4

12

M

198

Gtr. I *f*

Gtr. II *f*

VI. I pluck the two notes simultaneously *sfz* *f*

VI. II pluck the three notes simultaneously *sfz* *f*

Vla. pluck the three notes simultaneously *sfz* *f*

Cello *sfz* *f*

200

Gtr. I

Gtr. II C. VI *(f)* *p* *mf* *ff*

VI. I *p* *ff*

VI. II *p* *ff*

Vla. *p* *ff*

Cello *p* *ff*