

Full Score

Gilad Cohen

**Dances of Peril**  
for clarinet, violin and cello

(2020)

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# Dances of Peril

for clarinet, violin and cello

Each of the three movements may be performed individually.

## Program notes:

*Dances of Peril* is based on three old sketches. Although they were written in different times and greatly differed in context and instrumentation, the three had a few things in common: they were all fast, energetic, and unsettling. I decided to join them together, revising them considerably and reimagining them as three peculiar dances in a small, mysterious party.

While dance is often an act of joy and love, these dances are not. Scored for clarinet, violin, and cello, these dances involve three dancers; the relationships among them are unclear. Their movements are fast, sharp; at times, aggressive. The looks on their eyes convey suspicion.

Each of them knows that something bad is about to happen, but they have to play the game. Like a good “whodunit” thriller, it is unclear who the source of danger is. And this uncertainty enhances the fear and pushes each dancer to move faster, to seize control, to deceive.

Who knows how this will end.

# Dances of Peril

Approx. length: 13 minutes

## I. Tense

Gilad Cohen 2020  
updated 10.30.2021

**Allegro giusto** (♩=145), tense, very steady

Clarinet in Bb *p alert*

Violin *pp tense, hidden under cello at first*

Violoncello *p tense*

10

Cl. *mp*

Vln.

Vc. *mp subp*

18

Cl. *p*

Vln. *mp subp*

Vc. *mp subp*

26

Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

34

Cl. *pp*

Vln. *fp*

Vc.

41 **A** flz. *mf* whirling *ord.*

Vln. *f* solo, whirling

Vc. *mf* whirling *gliss.*

45 (as if time slowed down) (back to normal)

Cl. *f* *mp* *f* flz.

Vln. *p* *f*

Vc. *p* *f*

51 *ord.* *pp*

Cl. *pp*

Vln.

Vc.

**B** Poco sostenuto (♩=135)

55

Cl. *mp cantabile, gentler*

Vln. *pizz.* *arco* *pizz.* *arco* *pizz.* *arco*  
*p* *pp* *p* *pp* *simile*

Vc. *p gentile*

*poco accel.*

59

Cl. *mf* 3 3

Vln. I *pizz.* *f* *arco* *mf* 3

Vc. *espress.* *mf* 3 *pizz.* *mf*

**C** A tempo (♩=145)

62

Cl. *subp* *mf* *p*

Vln. *mf assertive* *mf* *cresc.*

Vc. *bend* *subp*

67 **poco accel.** flz.

Cl. *f*

Vln. *fp* gradually to sul pont.

Vc.

**D** Più mosso, urgent and intense (♩=155)

72 ord.

Cl. *still f*

Vln. *f* *espress.* poco sol pont., shrilling

Vc. *f*

77 rough sound

Cl. *ff* a cry for help

Vln. *f* non vib. ord. vib.  
*arco* *tr* (trilling the A)

Vc. *arco non legato ff*

81

Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

*fmp*

*ff*

**E** Senza misura

84

Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

*pp*

*sfz*

*f*

*melt into violin*

*non vib.*

*gradually into*

*wide vib.*

*sul pont.*

85

Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

*ppp*

*(sul pont.) very fast, legato sempre*

Moderato molto  
rubato (♩=100)

86

Cl. *p sadly*

Vln. Continue similarly with fast notes, choosing pitches from this collection ad lib.

Vc.



87

Cl.

Vln.

Vc. II *8va* II III *8va* *pp*



90

Cl. 3

Vln.

Vc.



93

Cl. 3 *pp*

Vln. *p celestial* *8va*

Vc. *p celestial*



Senza misura

7 sec.

95

Cl. *legato sempre* repeat, breathe as needed

sneak in from air sound *ppp*

Vln. harmonic gliss. sul A ad lib. sul pont.

Vc. (cl.: fast notes)



97

Cl. *cello: ♩=80*

Vln.

Vc. *f ominous*



99

Cl. sudden stop

Vln. sudden stop

Vc.

## II. Wild

1 Allegro (♩=125), very steady

Cl. 

Vln. 

*p* vigorous  
pizz.  
slide into note  
slight rubato


Vc. 

*p* vigorous

Cl. 

Vln. 

*giusto*

Vc. 

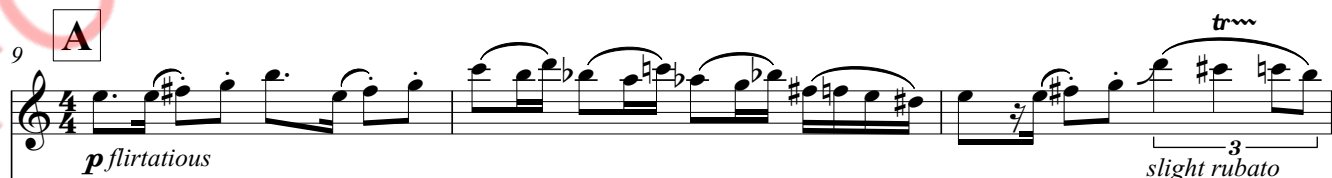
Cl. 

Vln. 


*mf*

Vc. 


*f* *p*

Cl. 

*p* flirtatious  
trill  
slight rubato

Vln. 

*p* 5 (pizz.)

Vc. 

*pp*

12

Cl. *tr* *giusto*

Vln. III 6. 6 6 6

Vc.

14

Cl. *fp* *growl*

Vln. *f*

Vc. *arco* *f*

**B** Cunning

17 ord.

Cl. *f*

Vln. *f*

Vc. *f* 5

21

Cl. *tr* *ff espress.*

Vln. *gliss.* *ff espress.*

Vc. *ff rocky, aggressive*

25

Cl. *flz.* *ord.*

Vln.

Vc.

29

Cl. *double with singing in a lower octave*

Vln. *f*

Vc. *hold eighth-notes for full length* *6*

32

Cl. *ord.*

Vln.

Vc. *gl.*

**C** *Meno mosso* (♩=115): A deceptively-elegant dance

35

Cl. *pp feverish*

Vln.

Vc. *pp*

38 *flz.* *ord.*

Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

41 *pp feverish* *pp feverish*

Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

43 *ppp almost inaudible at first* *poco a poco cresc.* *poco a poco cresc.*

Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

45 *3*

Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

**accel.** .....

46

Cl. *gliss.*

Vln.

Vc.

**Primo tempo** (♩=125); a contest of skills.

**D** Suggesting electronic dance music with delay effect.  
High-notes should pop out, repeated notes much softer.

48

Cl. *ff brilliant and assertive* *mf* *ff* *mf* *ff*

Vln. *ff assertive, echo for clarinet* *mf* *ff* *mf*

Vc. *ff brilliant and assertive* *mf* *ff* *mf* *ff*

50

Cl. *mf* *mf*

Vln. *ff* *mf* *ff* *mf*

Vc. *mf* *ff* *mf*

52

Cl. *p*

Vln. *p*

Vc. *p*

---

54

Cl. *pp* *f*

Vln. *f*

Vc. *f*

---

**E**

56

Cl. *ff as before* *p* *f* *mf* *ff* *p* *f* *mf* *ff*

Vln. *ff as before* *mf* *mf*

Vc. *ff as before* *mf* *ff* *mf* *ff*

---

58

Cl. *mf* *p* *3* *3* *flowing*

Vln. *ff* *mf* *p* *flowing*

Vc. *mf* *p* *flowing* *3* *3*

60 rit. . . . .

Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

**F** Andante (♩=70) molto rubato; heavy and suspicious

63

Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

68

Cl.

Vln.

Vc.



73

Cl. *cantabile* *p* *dragging* SOLO *3* *3* *3*

Vln. *pp calmer* *pp* *non vib.*

Vc. *pp* *gl.*



77

Cl. *Slow* (♩=50) *3*

Vln. *gliss. while tremoloing* *gliss.* *gliss.*

Vc. *gl.*



79

Cl. *Molto accel. a la klezmer* *Tempo primo (Allegro ♩=125)* *f*

Vln. *f*

Vc. *f*

**G** Each one in turn showing off

81 *flz.* *ord.*

Cl. *p light* *ff*

Vln. *p light*

Vc. *p* *mf*

84

Cl. *mf* *ff*

Vln. *f*

Vc. *f* *gliss.* *f*

87

Cl. *ff wild*

Vln. *ff wild*

Vc.

89

Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

**H** **Meno mosso** (♩=100)  
avoid a sense of meter

91

Cl. *mf*

Vln. *mf*

Vc. *mf*

95

Cl. *f*

Vln. *f*

Vc. *f*

*I*  
*8va*

97

**I** **A tempo** (♩=125)

Cl. *mp* *poco a poco cresc.* *rubato (clarinet only)*

Vln. *pp* *pizz.* *f energetic*

Vc. *p* *pizz.* *f energetic*

101

Cl. *giusto*

Vln.

Vc.

103

Cl. *f*

Vln. *ff*

Vc. *ff*

**J Show down**

105

Cl. *arco ff*

Vln. *arco ff*

Vc. *arco ff aggressive* *mf* *ff* *espress.*

108

Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

110

Cl. *flz.* *ord.*  
*fp* ————— *ff*

Vln. *tr* *b* *tr*

Vc. *fp* ————— *ff*

**K** **Con moto**

113

Cl. *p*

Vln. *submp*  
*with urgency*

Vc. *submp*  
*with urgency*

117

Cl. *f*

Vln. *f* *pizz. arco*

Vc. *f*

120 **Senza Misura** (♩=100) after cl. and vc. end their glissandi

Cl. *ppp*

Vln. when cello starts glissing switch to harmonic pressure (♯8)

Vc. switch to harmonic pressure II III

Detailed description of the musical score: The score is for measures 120-121. It is in 2/4 time and marked 'Senza Misura' with a tempo of ♩=100. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The Clarinet (Cl.) part starts with a quarter note G4, followed by a glissando up to a whole note G4. The Violin (Vln.) part starts with a quarter note G4, followed by a glissando up to a whole note G4. The Viola (Vc.) part starts with a quarter note G2, followed by a glissando up to a whole note G2. Performance instructions include 'pizz.' for the strings, 'arco' for the cello, and 'switch to harmonic pressure' for both strings. Dynamics range from *p* to *ppp*. A large red watermark 'FOR PERUSAL USE ONLY' is overlaid on the page.

# III. Menacing

Ominous, moderato rubato (♩=80)

1

Cl. *f* *p* *sfz*

Vln. *f* *p* *sfz*

Vc. *f* *gl.* *sfz*

**A** Presto, unease and very steady (♩=150)

6

Cl. *f* *mf espress. deep*

Vln. *f* *mf espress. deep*

Vc. *f* *pizz.* *gl.*

11

Cl. *playful* *p* *f*

Vln. *pp* *f gliss.* *pizz.* *arco*

Vc. *f*

16

Cl. *f* *subp*

Vln. *p*

Vc.

21

Cl. *mp* light-hearted

Vln. *mp*

Vc.

24

Cl. *p* *f*

Vln. *pp*

Vc. *p*

26 **B** Dance-like, bouncy and dangerous

Cl. *ff*

Vln. *ff*

Vc. *ff* arco slide into notes



31

Cl. *p*

Vln. *p*

Vc.

35

Cl. *fp*

Vln. *lyrical* *fp*

Vc.

*p*

**C**

39

Cl. *f*

Vln. *f*

Vc. *f* *gliss.* *ff*

44

Cl. *subp*

Vln. *subp*

Vc. *subp*

47

Cl. *p*

Vln. *p*

Vc. *p*

51 **D**

Cl. *p < f* *p*

Vln. *f* *pp* *mf* *pp*  
pizz.

Vc. *f* *p* *p* *arco* (*p*)

56 **E** *poco rit. A tempo*

Cl. *p intense* *f*

Vc. *p* *f dramatic*

62 **E**

Cl. *mf espress., deep* *playful* *p*

Vln. *mf espress., deep* *pp*

Vc. *gl.*

The musical score is divided into three systems. The first system (measures 47-50) features a Clarinet part with a triplet and a long phrase, Violin with a triplet and a phrase, and Violoncello with a steady eighth-note accompaniment. The second system (measures 51-55) is marked with a double bar line and a box containing the letter 'D'. It features a Clarinet part with rests and a phrase, Violin with a forte-to-pp dynamic shift and pizzicato, and Violoncello with a forte-to-p dynamic shift and arco. The third system (measures 56-62) is marked with a double bar line and a box containing the letter 'E'. It features a Clarinet part with a phrase, Violin with a phrase, and Violoncello with a phrase. The tempo marking 'poco rit. A tempo' is placed above the system. Dynamics include 'mf espress., deep', 'playful', 'p', 'pp', 'gl.', 'p intense', 'f', 'p', 'f dramatic', and 'mf espress., deep'.

66

Cl. *f*

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

Vc. *f*

---

70

Cl. *f* *subp*

Vln. *p*

Vc. *f*

---

74

Cl. *mp* light-hearted

Vln. 3

Vc. *f*

---

77

Cl. *p* *f*

Vln. *tr* *pp* 3 3 3

Vc. *p*

Detailed description: This page of a musical score contains three systems of staves for Clarinet (Cl.), Violin (Vln.), and Violoncello (Vc.). The first system (measures 66-69) shows the Cl. part with a forte (f) dynamic, the Vln. part with pizzicato (pizz.) and forte (f) dynamics, and the Vc. part with a forte (f) dynamic. The second system (measures 70-73) features the Cl. part with forte (f) and sub-piano (subp) dynamics, the Vln. part with piano (p) dynamic, and the Vc. part with forte (f) dynamic. The third system (measures 74-76) has the Cl. part marked mezzo-piano (mp) and 'light-hearted', the Vln. part with triplet (3) markings, and the Vc. part with forte (f) dynamic. The fourth system (measures 77-80) shows the Cl. part with piano (p) and forte (f) dynamics, the Vln. part with trills (tr) and pianissimo (pp) dynamics, and the Vc. part with piano (p) dynamic. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, accents, and dynamic markings.

79 **F** Dance-like, bouncy and dangerous

Cl. *ff*

Vln. *ff*

Vc. arco *ff*

84 Cl. *p* lyrical

Vln. *p*

Vc. *p*

90 Cl. *fp* *f*

Vln. *fp* *f*

Vc. *f* gliss.

96 Cl. *subp*

Vln. *subp*

Vc. *ff* *subp*

100

Cl. *p*

Vln. *p*

Vc. *p*

104

Cl. *p < f* *p*

Vln. *f* *pp* *mf* *pp*

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

**G**

109

Cl. *mf*

Vln. *pizz.*

Vc. *pizz.*

114

Cl. *f* *mf*

Vln. *f* *mf*

Vc. *f* *mf*

**H** Playful and menacing

118

Cl. *f*

Vln. *f* *mf* *f* *spiccato*

Vc. *f*

122

Cl. *p*

Vln. *gl.* *p*

Vc. *f* *mf playful*

127

Cl. *f*

Vln. *f*

Vc. *f*

131

Cl. *mf leggiero*

Vln. *mf leggiero*

Vc. *subp*

133

Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

**I**

135

Cl. *subpp*

Vln. *p*

Vc. *pizz.* *p energetic*

140

Cl.

Vln. *p playful*

Vc. *arco* *playful* *pizz.* *p*

144

Cl. *pizz.* *pp* *p*

Vln. *f* *arco* *p playful*

Vc.

149

Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

*p playful* *p* *f* *p*

arco II pizz. arco



153

Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

*mf* *mf* *mf*

arco



157

Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

*p* *f* *pp* *ff*

poco rall. . . . .

ord. 3



**J** A tempo (♩=150),  
Dance-like, bouncy and dangerous,

160

Cl. *ff*

Vln. *ff*

Vc. *tr*  
(trilling the C)

166

Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

170

**K**

Cl. *f* *ff*

Vln. *f*

Vc. *f* *ff*

176

Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

pizz.  
*p*

**L** Calming down...

181

Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

*p* *p < f*

*mf* *f* *pp*

*f* *p* *p*

185

Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

*p* *mf < ff*

*mf* *pp* *mf < ff*

*p* *fff*

IV  
arco harm.

Oh no!