

Full Score

Gilad Cohen

Three Goat Blues

for string quartet

(2015)

*Commissioned by Apollo Chamber Players for 20x2020 project,
underwritten by a grant from Houston Arts Alliance*

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Program Notes:

“Chad Gadya” (“one little goat” in Aramaic) is a popular prayer from the Jewish holiday of Passover. While the holiday celebrates the biblical journey of the Israelites from slavery to freedom, “Chad Gadya” tells the story of one little goat that, right at the beginning of the prayer, is eaten by a cat. This tragic event begins a horrific fable about the power of nature, in which each being is killed by one larger than itself. Following the 20th-century French composer Darius Milhaud, who wove Provençal Jewish prayers into his music, I chose to use an old Provençal tune of “Chad Gadya” as a musical source for my piece. I decided, however, that the poor animal deserves a second chance.

Instead of one goat, my piece portrays three (or possibly three aspects of the same goat).

The first one is an oppressed, captive goat who sings the blues through the low-ranged cello.

The viola represents a second goat that finds its way out of captivity and frolics here and there, but unfortunately its memories of oppression do not allow it to find peace. Only the third goat, featured by the violin, reaches true salvation. In a free adaptation of the original Provençal melody, the goat celebrates its freedom by dancing among the hills using awkward meters (since I can’t really imagine a goat dancing in 4/4 time). The piece was commissioned by Apollo Chamber Players for 20x2020 project, underwritten by a grant from the Houston Arts Alliance, and was written for their program “Oppression to Expression” that connects pieces influenced by Provençal Jewish and African-American traditions.

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Last update: October 2018

**Andante, bluesy, wandering around,
but keeping a very constant beat (♩=90)**

Violin I

Violin II

Viola

Violoncello

l.h. pizz while bowing, and then rapidly gliss once (back and forth) on the same string

gl.

p *somber*
introverted at first



Vn. I

Vn. II

Vla.

Vc.

5

l.h. pizz while bowing, and then rapidly gliss once (back and forth) on the same string

gl.

pp *somber*
softer than viola, like echo

simile
gl.

+
more confident

8

Vn. I

Vn. II

Vla.

Vc.



11

Vn. I

Vn. II

Vla.

Vc.

l.h. pizz while bowing, and then rapidly gliss once (back and forth) on the same string

pp *somber*
softer than viola, like echo

simile

sul pont. *gradually*

18

Vn. I

Vn. II

Vla.

Vc.

espress.



21

Vn. I

Vn. II

Vla.

Vc.

Poco sul pont.

bright and rough

24

Vn. I

Vn. II

Vla.

Vc.

ord.

dramatic

gl

gl

gl

27

Vn. I

Vn. II

Vla.

Vc.

pp

pp

p

sfz

B

30

Vn. I

Vn. II

Vla.

Vc.

p

mp

f solo, rough



33

Vn. I

Vn. II

Vla.

Vc.

C

36

Vn. I *poco a poco dim.*

Vn. II *poco a poco dim.*

Vla. *poco a poco dim.*

Vc. *mf* *sfz*

dark, dramatic

39

Vn. I

Vn. II

Vla. *pp*

Vc. *sfz*

42 **D**

Vn. I *pp* *ppp*

Vn. II *pp*

Vla. *p*

Vc. *pizz., long* *mf rich and comforting*

gliss

II III IV II III IV



48

Vn. I *pp* *mysterious* *change bow seamlessly*

Vn. II *pp* *mysterious* *change bow seamlessly*

Vla. *mp*

Vc. *mp*

gliss

II I sul pont. *change bow seamlessly*

IV III sul pont. *change bow seamlessly*

II III IV

53

occasional sul pont.
ad lib.

p espress., ruminating
rubato

Vn. I

Vn. II

Vla.

Vc.



E Moderato Molto Rubato (♩=100)

58

sul pont.

pp

pp

Vn. I

Vn. II

Vla.

Vc.

61

Vn. I

Vn. II

Vla.

Vc.

tr

sul pont.

gliss.

gliss.

gliss.

F Allegro, accurate, lighter ($\text{♩} = 140$)

63

Vn. I

Vn. II

Vla.

Vc.

II

subp

p

pizz.

p elegant

pizz.

p

pizz.

66

Vn. I

Vn. II

Vla.

Vc.

con sord.

mf cantabile, determined

G

69 con sord.

Vn. I arco

Vn. II II III 8va *ppp* con sord.

Vla. 3

Vc.

73 pizz. *p*

Vn. I

Vn. II II III *pp*

Vla. *p* sul pont. *pp* 3

Vc.

H

76 arco 3

Vn. I *f* melodramatic

Vn. II 3 *f* melodramatic

Vla. ord. 3 *f* melodramatic

Vc.

14

80

molto vib.

Vn. I

Vn. II

Vla.

Vc.

Detailed description: This system contains measures 80 through 83. The Violin I and II parts, Viola, and Cello all feature a 'molto vib.' (molto vibrato) marking. The Violin parts play a melodic line with slurs and accents, while the Viola and Cello parts play a rhythmic accompaniment. Triplet figures are present in measures 81 and 82 across all parts.

84

pizz.

mp rhythmic, light

p

poco a poco cresc.

Vn. I

Vn. II

Vla.

Vc.

Detailed description: This system contains measures 84 through 86. In measure 84, the Violin I and II parts play a sustained note. In measure 85, the Violin II part begins a rhythmic pattern marked 'pizz.' (pizzicato) and '*mp* rhythmic, light'. The Viola part has a triplet figure in measure 85, marked '*p*'. The Cello part continues its rhythmic accompaniment. A '*poco a poco cresc.*' (poco a poco crescendo) marking is placed below the Cello staff.

87

f

f

Vn. I

Vn. II

Vla.

Vc.

Detailed description: This system contains measures 87 through 89. The Violin I part is silent. The Violin II part plays a rhythmic pattern marked '*f*' (forte). The Viola part plays a sustained note marked '*f*'. The Cello part plays a rhythmic accompaniment marked '*f*'. The system concludes with a 4/4 time signature.

I Subito Moderato giusto,
like a clock (♩=120)

89

Vn. I arco

Vn. II arco *subp giusto, determined*

Vla. *f* *subp giusto, determined*

Vc. *mf* solo giusto, passionato

pizz. *p giusto*

arco +

92

Vn. I arco *mp* 11

Vn. II *p* gentile

Vla. *p* gentile

Vc. *gentle*

J Allegro, as before (♩=140)

94

Vn. I *pp* sul pont.

Vn. II *pp* I 8va (#) II sul pont.

Vla.

Vc. *p* pizz.

96

senza sord

arco

f melodramatic

senza sord

f melodramatic

senza sord

f melodramatic

Vn. I

Vn. II

Vla.

Vc.

K

99

molto vib.

molto vib.

molto vib.

Vn. I

Vn. II

Vla.

Vc.

103

mf aggressive

arco

mf aggressive

over pressure

f aggressive

arco

arco

f aggressive

Vn. I

Vn. II

Vla.

Vc.

107

Vn. I

Vn. II

Vla.

Vc.

110

Vn. I

Vn. II

Vla.

Vc.

112

Vn. I

Vn. II

Vla.

Vc.

fmp

ff

ff

sul pont.

L Subito Moderato giusto (♩=120)

Musical score for measures 114-117. The score is for four instruments: Vn. I, Vn. II, Vla., and Vc. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature changes from 4/4 to 2/4 and back to 4/4. The dynamics are *ff* for Vn. I and Vn. II, and *submf* for Vla. and Vc. The performance instructions are *giusto, passionato* for Vn. I and Vc., and *giusto, determined* for Vn. II and Vla. The Vc. part includes an *arco* marking. There are triplets in measures 114, 115, and 117.



Musical score for measures 118-121. The score is for four instruments: Vn. I, Vn. II, Vla., and Vc. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature changes from 4/4 to 3/4, 2/4, and 5/4. The dynamics are *mp* for Vn. I, and *gentle* for Vn. II, Vla., and Vc. The performance instruction is *gentle* for Vn. II, Vla., and Vc. The Vn. I part includes a triplet in measure 118 and a melodic line in measure 120. The Vc. part includes triplets in measures 118, 119, and 120. There is a fermata in measure 120.

M Moderato (♩=120) rit. Molto Rubato (♩=100)

Vn. I *pp*

Vn. II con sord. occasional sul pont. ad lib. *p* espress., ruminating, rubato

Vla. *pp* 8va I II

Vc. pizz. *p* ruminating



N

Vn. I con sord. non vib. *pp* somber

Vn. II *pp* somber

Vla. non vib. *pp* somber

Vc. arco IV *pp* somber

128

Vn. I

Vn. II

Vla.

Vc.

O Moderato, flowing (♩=120)

130

Vn. I

Vn. II

Vla.

Vc.

arco

p solo melancholic

mp pizz.

p gentle

p gentle

134

Vn. I

Vn. II

Vla.

Vc.

pizz.

p

arco

pp

pizz.

p

136

Vn. I

Vn. II

Vla.

Vc.

(tr) con sord.

P

139

Vn. I

Vn. II

Vla.

Vc.

arco

p solo melancholic

arco

pp 3 3 5

pp cantabile

tr

143

Vn. I

Vn. II

Vla.

Vc.

pizz.

p

tr

145

Vn. I

Vn. II

Vla.

Vc.



Q

148

Vn. I

Vn. II

Vla.

Vc.

arco

p solo melancholic

pp

pp cantabile

3

3

5

tr



150

Vn. I

Vn. II

Vla.

Vc.

mf

mf

senza sord.

senza sord.

Lunga

R Allegro vivace, joyous (♩=150)

153 senza sord.

Vn. I *p* mischievous II

Vn. II *pizz.* *p*

Vla. *pizz.* *p*

Vc. *arco* (*arco*) *pp*

157

Vn. I

Vn. II

Vla.

Vc. *pizz.* *p solo* mischievous

161

Vn. I *p3*

Vn. II

Vla.

Vc.

165

Vn. I *f* folkly poco sul pont. arco

Vn. II *f* folkly poco sul pont. arco

Vla. *f* energetic arco

Vc. (pizz.) *mf* let ring arco *sfz* *f* energetic



169

Vn. I *mf* ord.

Vn. II *mf* ord.

Vla. *sfz* *sfz* *mf*

Vc. *sfz* *sfz* solo

173

Vn. I *mf* ord. *f* ord.

Vn. II *f*

Vla. *f*

Vc. *f*

177

Vn. I

Vn. II

Vla.

Vc.

pp

p

pp

p

pizz.

mp

180

T

Vn. I

Vn. II

Vla.

Vc.

p intensive

pp spiccato

pizz.

p

mp arco

mp

p

184

Vn. I

Vn. II

Vla.

Vc.

p

mf espress.

mf espress.

arco

mf espress.

3

6

186

Vn. I *pizz.*

Vn. II *fp* *f* *f* *pizz.*

Vla. *f* *f soli* *pizz.*

Vc. *f* *f soli*

U

189

Vn. I *arco* *mp*

Vn. II *arco* *mp* *tr*

Vla. *tr*

Vc.

192

Vn. I *f*

Vn. II *f*

Vla. *molto vib. while glissing* *gliss.* *II* *I.* *(IV)*

Vc.

196

Vn. I *mp*

Vn. II *pizz.* *f*

Vla.

Vc.

199

sul G -----

Vn. I *f* *rocky&dirty* *molto vib.* *f* *energetic*

Vn. II *arco* *mf* *f* *energetic*

Vla. *mf*

Vc. *arco* *mf*

203

Vn. I *sfz*

Vn. II *sfz*

Vla. *f*

Vc. *f*

V

206

Vn. I *fmp* *f* *f* *rocky&dirty*

Vn. II *p* *spiccato*

Vla. *spiccato* *subp* *pizz.* *f* *rocky&dirty* *poco sul pont.* *molto vib.*

Vc. *p*

210

Vn. I *mf* *f* *f*

Vn. II *f*

Vla. *mf*

Vc. *f*

213

Vn. I *rhythmic* *pp*

Vn. II *rhythmic* *pp*

Vla. *mp*

Vc.

217

Vn. I *p* intensive pizz. *mp* arco *f* espress., broad

Vn. II *pp* *p* *mp* *f* espress., broad

Vla. *p* *f* espress., broad arco

Vc. *p* *f* espress., broad

222

Vn. I *fp* *p*

Vn. II *p* *f* *p*

Vla. *p* pizz.

Vc. *p*

226

Vn. I *pp* non vib.

Vn. II *mf* *mf*

Vla. arco *mp* *mf* *p* *f*

Vc. pizz. *mp* arco *p* *f*

X

229

Vn. I *p* *pizz.* *f* slap fingerboard pizz.

Vn. II *ord. vib.* *p intensive* *f* slap fingerboard pizz.

Vla. *p* *f* slap fingerboard pizz.

Vc. *pizz. slap fingerboard* *f* *pizz.*

233

Vn. I

Vn. II

Vla.

Vc.

Y **Largo, heavy and pompous** (♩=50) **poco a poco accel. a la kleizmer**

237

Vn. I *arco* *mf* *tr*

Vn. II *arco* *mf* *f solo heavy, pompous*

Vla. *arco* *f solo heavy, pompous*

Vc. *arco non legato* *mf heavy* **IV** *sfz*

241

Vn. I *f solo accented*

Vn. II *mf*

Vla. *sfz*

Vc. *sfz*

Z Allegro vivace (♩=150)

246

Vn. I *f* non legato

Vn. II *f* non legato

Vla. *f* non legato

Vc. *f* non legato

AA

250

Vn. I *ff* *subp*

Vn. II *ff* *subp*

Vla. *ff* *subp* *mf*

Vc. *ff* *subp* *mf*

254

Vn. I *fp* ————— *f* *fmp* ————— *f* *fmp* ————— *f* *pizz.* *arco*
ff *p* *mischievous*

Vn. II *fp* ————— *f* *fmp* ————— *f* *fmp* ————— *f* *ff* *pizz.*

Vla. *arco*
f driven *ffz*

Vc. *f driven* *ffz*

BB

258

Vn. I *arco*
spiccato

Vn. II *p* *arco*
spiccato

Vla. *p* *(arco)*

Vc. *p* *mischievous*

263

Vn. I *tr*

Vn. II

Vla.

Vc.

267

Vn. I *f* folkly
poco sul pont.

Vn. II *f* folkly
poco sul pont.

Vla. *f* energetic

Vc. *mf* *sfz* *f* energetic
pizz. ϕ arco
let ring



271 CC

Vn. I *ff* wild
poco sul pont.,
suggesting el. guitar

Vn. II ord.

Vla. *f sfz f*

Vc. *sfz*

34

275

Vn. I

Vn. II

Vla.

Vc.

ord.

f

submp heavy

submp heavy

submp heavy

3

3

3

IV

279

Vn. I

Vn. II

Vla.

Vc.

pp

pp

f

mf

pizz.

f

subp

3

2/4

4/4

2/4

4/4

2/4

4/4

2/4

4/4

283

DD

Vn. I

Vn. II

Vla.

Vc.

mp intensive

mp

pizz.

arco

pp

pp

mp

spiccato

mp

arco

p

p

4/4

2/4

4/4

4/4

2/4

4/4

2/4

4/4

4/4

4/4

287

Vn. I *ff* molto espress., glorious

Vn. II *fp*

Vla. *f* giusto, energetic

Vc. *f* giusto, energetic

292

Vn. I *pp*

Vn. II *mp* 3 3 3 3

Vla. *mf* pizz.

Vc. *mf*

297

Vn. I *mp* 3 3 3 *mf* 3 3 3 3

Vn. II 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

Vla. arco *mp* 3 3 3

Vc. *f* pizz. *mf*

299 **3**

Vn. I *pp* non vib.

Vn. II *mf* *mf*

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

Vc. *p* *f*

EE

301

Vn. I *p* pizz. *p* arco *f* broad

Vn. II *p* intensive ord. vib. *f* broad

Vla. *p* *p* *f* broad

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

FF Broad, rhythmic and accurate in time

305

Vn. I *driven*

Vn. II

Vla.

Vc.

309

Vn. I *molto espress.* *fp* *mf* *tr*

Vn. II *molto espress.* *fp* *mf*

Vla. *f energetic*

Vc. *f energetic*



314

Vn. I *fp* *mfp* *ff espress. celebrative* *tr*

Vn. II *fp* *mfp* *ff espress. celebrative*

Vla. *f energetic* *ff espress. celebrative*

Vc. *f energetic*

GG

318

Vn. I

Vn. II

Vla.

Vc.

ff

322

Vn. I

Vn. II

Vla.

Vc.

ffp molto espress.

ffp molto espress.

ff

ff

gliss. >

III
IV

326

Vn. I

Vn. II

Vla.

Vc.

fmp

fmp

fff

fff

fff

fff

fff

fff rough

HH Andante rubato
peaceful (♩=100)

330 non vib.

Vn. I *f* decrescendo very slowly, like a dying sound of an explosion *(pp)*

Vn. II *f* decrescendo very slowly, like a dying sound of an explosion *(pp)*

Vla. *pp* special; not audible at first due to the rest of the ensemble

Vc. *f* decrescendo very slowly, like a dying sound of an explosion *(pp)*

experiment with weird sounds including sul pont.

smoothly switch to harmonics IV

experiment with weird sounds including sul pont. III IV

III IV smoothly switch to harmonics

experiment with weird sounds including sul pont.



334

Vn. I

Vn. II

Vla. *p*

Vc. con sord.

337

Vn. I

Vn. II

Vla.

Vc.

espress.

II

339

Vn. I

Vn. II

Vla.

Vc.

con sord.

p like a memory

sul pont. IV

harm. gliss. sul G

con sord.

pp

pizz. arco

pp *pp*

sul pont. 8va (e)

342

Vn. I

Vn. II

Vla.

Vc.

simile

randon harm. glisses ad lib. sul G, sul pont.

pp

mp

espress.

ord.

III IV

pp

Poco rubato A tempo

345

Vn. I

Vn. II

Vla.

Vc.

p

espress.

sul pont.

JJ

mp espress.

349

Vn. I

Vn. II

Vla.

Vc.

p

p cantabile

pizz. arco

sul pont. 8va

pp *pp*

Poco rubato A tempo

353

Vn. I

Vn. II

Vla.

Vc.

sul pont.

mp espress.

harm. glisses ad lib. sul D, sul pont.

pp

mp

ord.

III IV

sul pont.

pp

mp espress.

KK

357

Vn. I *ord.*
pp (softer)

Vn. II *pp cantabile (softer than before)*

Vla. *espress.*

Vc. *pizz.* *arco ord.*
pp *pp*



361

Vn. I *rit.*

Vn. II III

Vla. *mp* *p*

Vc. *sul pont.* *8va* *ord.* III IV
pp

Poco rubato A tempo

365

Vn. I sul pont. *mp espress.* **II** *mp espress.* **rubato**

Vn. II *pp* harm. glisses ad lib. sul D, sul pont.

Vla. sul pont.

Vc. *mp espress.* *mp espress.*



A tempo

poco rit.

369

Vn. I **I** **II** 8va *very slowly*

Vn. II *very slowly*

Vla. *pp* *ppp* arco *very slowly*

Vc. **III** **IV** pizz. *ppp*