

Paul Frehner

Bytown Waters For Piano Trio

2017

*Commissioned by the Gryphon Trio in partnership with Chamber Factory:
Works for Small Ensembles and generously supported by Nicole Senécal
and David Holdsworth.*

Performance Notes

Accidentals function in the traditional manner. However, cautionary accidentals often used.

Approximate duration: 18 minutes

Movement III, *River Whisper*, makes extensive use of natural harmonics in both string parts. These are always notated according to the desired sounding pitch.

Piano preparation: near the end Movement IV, *Riverrun*, measure 360, the pianist is to lay a very small tambourine, or a similar instrument like a pandeiro, on top of the piano strings in the lowest octave. The strings covered should span the range C1-A1. It is all right if the covered range is slightly larger, however, the tambourine should not cover the string for key C2. This preparation should give a percussive jangle to the notes in this register. Once placed, the tambourine should remain in place for the remainder of the piece.

Alternate notation of movement IV:

At the end of the score movement IV, *Riverrun* is presented once again. This second version of the movement has two passages that are notated using a different metric pattern than that used in the original version. The passages in question are from mm. 246-269 and from mm. 342-351. In the alternate version the notation is biased toward the metric pattern evident in the piano part, which has repeating four-bar phrases consisting of 2 bars of 12/16 followed by one bar of 4/4 and one bar of 2/4. Over this pattern the strings play a repeating phrase pattern in a slightly different mixed meter than the piano part. The music in the two versions of the movement is essentially identical. It is just the metric organization of the notation in the two passages that is different. Performers are encouraged to use whichever version they feel allows the music to come off the page with the greatest precision in the resultant groove.

Program Note

Bytown Waters is inspired by the waters running through Ottawa and by various accounts regarding the origins of the city, from the period in which it was called Bytown. Natural aspects of the Ottawa River and the Rideau Canal as well as the important roles these bodies played in the growth and development of the city and region were reflected upon while composing the four movements of this work.

I. River Stones: skipping flat stones on a mirror-like surface of water; concentric circles radiating outward; underneath an underlying current moves inexorably forward.

II. River Drift: this movement is a barge song of sorts. In the early 19th Century the timber trade was the major industry of Upper Canada and Lower Canada and Bytown was a centre for lumber and sawmills. The Ottawa River and later, the Rideau Canal, were the principal routes for shipping lumber to Quebec and from there onward to England and other European countries. Great timber rafts, containing thousands of logs and holding hundreds of raftsmen would make the weeks-long journey to ports in Quebec. This movement is inspired by the steady rhythm of the raftsmen's oars and the varying conditions of the river along the journey.

III. River Whisper: the stark beauty of a moment in the cold of winter when the river waters are frozen and dusted with snow.

IV. Riverrun: this movement is inspired by river rapids and the various construction projects, such as timber slides and even the Rideau Canal, which allowed loggers moving timber downriver to bypass dangerous waters. Musically, this movement has a restless energy associated with large construction projects. If one notices a certain cloak and dagger spice to the music it could have to do with the fact that the canal was built for the purpose of secure military communications and movement of supplies. A snippet of a folk melody makes a cameo as a tribute to the Irish and French Canadian workers who did most of the construction work on the canal.

Bytown Waters was composed in celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Gryphon Trio.

Bytown Waters

for piano trio

Dedicated to the Gryphon Trio in celebration of their 25th Anniversary Season

Paul Frehner, 2017

edited 2018

I. River Stones

Violin

Cello

Piano

Capricious $\text{♩} = 82$

pizz. $\nearrow \nearrow \nearrow \nearrow$

arco poco vibrato \nearrow

ff pizz. $\nearrow \nearrow \nearrow \nearrow$

arco poco vibrato \nearrow

ff $\nearrow \nearrow \nearrow \nearrow$

Capricious $\text{♩} = 82$

fluid, florid, espressivo \nearrow

5

6

4

5 f **5**

6

4

5 p **6**

4

4

6

4

rall. \dots

mp

4

6

4 f **6**

rall. \dots

3 **3** **7**

mp

4

6

5

a tempo

pizz. $\nearrow \nearrow$

arco poco vibrato \nearrow

6

ff pizz. $\nearrow \nearrow$

arco poco vibrato \nearrow

6

a tempo

declamatory **3**

5

7 f **6**

mf

9

mp

6

4

6

rall.

mp

6

f

mp

rall.

mp

7

a tempo

pizz.

f pizz.

arco

p

p

7

a tempo

f

p

9

6

p

6

8

rall.

rall.

5

mp

cresc.

6

6

6

9

a tempo

pizz.

ff pizz.

arco

p

f pizz.

ff

a tempo

p

9

f sub.

5

2

5

mp

9

10

senza rubato

arco

mp

mf

mp

mf

senza rubato

5 10 5 10 10

f *mp* *f* *mp* *f* *mf*

11

p *mf*

p *mf*

f 5 *mp* *f* *mp* *f* *mp*

10 5 10 10

12

p *mp*

p *mp*

f 5 *mp* *mf* *p*

10 10

13

pp *mp*

pp *mp*

mp 5 *pp* *mf* *p*

10 10

14

rall. *a tempo* *calm, dreamy yet clocklike*

mf *p* *mp* *pp* *calm, dreamy yet clocklike*

mf *express.* *rall.* *a tempo* *calm, dreamy yet clocklike*

f *>mp* *pp*

14

19

19

24

24

29

29

34

34

p

38

38

mp

pp

40

Precipitato

mf

mf

5

Precipitato

pp

9

mf

42

pizz.

42

44

44

46

46

47

G.P. attacca

ff

ff

G.P.

attacca

II. River Drift

49 ♩ = 86 Like a barcarolle With steady movement and momentum

pizz.

poco vibrato

mf

p

mp

arco poco vibrato

49 ♩ = 86 Like a barcarolle With steady movement and momentum

mp

52

simile (slight cresc.-decresc. on every note until m. 60)

simile (slight cresc.-decresc. on every note until m. 72)

52

simile

55

56

55

56

58

59

58

59

61

pizz.
resonant

f

62

61

62

64

64

mf — *f*

(*mp*)

66

66

mf

f

mf

68

f

mp — *mf*

The musical score consists of six staves of music, likely for orchestra and piano. The top staff shows a treble clef, a bass clef, and a bassoon part. The second staff shows a treble clef and a piano part. The third staff shows a bass clef and a piano part. The fourth staff shows a treble clef and a bassoon part. The fifth staff shows a treble clef and a bassoon part. The sixth staff shows a treble clef and a bassoon part. Various dynamics and articulations are indicated throughout the score, including *mp*, *f*, *p*, *mf*, *espress.*, *con vibrato*, and *arco*. Time signatures change frequently, including 6/4, 5/4, and 3/4.

78

78

f

mf

6/4

80

80

mp

pp

p

81

f

6/4

82

piu espressivo

f

piu espressivo

82

p

mf

mp

6/4

85

85

88

88

91

91

94

sul tasto

p

legato

97

pizz.

p

8va-

99

(8va)

6 6 6 6 6 6

100

104

104

107

Appassionata

arco

Appassionata

107

Appassionata

ff

109

109

ff

>>

6

ff

6

5

5

111

detaché, espressivo

111

ff

>>

6

ff

6

5

5

mf

6

6

113

R.H.

L.H.

poco 5 cresc.

5

5

113

mf

f

mf

6

6

6

115

115

117

117

molto espressivo

ff

ff

ff

quasi secco

ff

mf sub.

sostenuto pedal

119

119

ff

ff

f

ff

sfz

mf

sostenuto pedal

121

121

sffz

f

ff

mf

sfz

6

123

ff

molto espressivo

f

ff

sffz

sfz

mf

simile: sostenuto pedal

6

125

ff

ff

detaché, espressivo

detaché, espressivo

ff

sfz

f

6

127

127

sfz

129

129

3

131

131

marcato

f

marcato

f

ff

18

133

133

sfz

135

detaché, espressivo

ff *detaché, espressivo*

ff

135

sfz *ff*

137

f

f

137

f

138 *molto express.*
ff *molto express.* *fff*
ff

138 *sfs* *ff*

140 *sfs* *fff*
ff

140

142 *fff*
fff

142

144

144

146

146

148

148

rubato

151

a tempo

151

rubato

a tempo

pp

pp

154

(slight cresc.-decresc. on every note until m. 163)

(slight cresc.-decresc. on every note until m. 171)

154

158

158

162

pizz.

162

8

mf *pp* *mp*

6

166

pp simile

166

pp *mf*

pp *f*

6

169

arco

pp

169

mp *pp*

attacca

175

175

ppp

pp

ppp

ppp

attacca

This section consists of two pairs of measures. The first pair (measures 175-176) features a treble clef, a bass clef, and a bass clef. It includes dynamic markings *ppp*, *pp*, and *ppp*. The second pair (measures 177-178) features a treble clef, a bass clef, and a bass clef. It includes dynamic markings *ppp* and *ppp*. The score concludes with the instruction *attacca*.

III. River Whisper

$\text{♩} = 86$ Calm, Cool

pizz.

mf

arco
a whisper
poco s.p.

pp

pp *3*

mf

$\text{♩} = 86$ Calm, Cool

mp

arco
poco s.p.

pppp *pp*

(♪=♪)

ppp

a whisper
poco s.p.

pppp *pp*

(♪=♪)

180

180

183

183

This section is divided into four systems. The first system (measures 180-181) includes dynamics *mf*, *pizz.*, *pp*, *pp* (with a 3 overline), *mf*, and *pp*. The second system (measures 182-183) includes dynamics *mp*, *arco*, *poco s.p.*, *pppp*, *pp*, *a whisper*, *poco s.p.*, and *pppp* (with a 3 overline). The third system (measures 184-185) includes dynamics *ppp* and *ppp*. The fourth system (measures 186-187) includes dynamics *ppp* and *ppp*.

186 (♩=♩) pizz. arco poco s.p. $\frac{12}{16}$

186 (♩=♩) mf pp $\frac{12}{16}$

189 pizz. arco poco s.p. $\frac{12}{16}$ poco s.p. $\frac{12}{16}$ ppp $\frac{12}{16}$

189 $\frac{12}{16}$ $\frac{9}{16}$ $\frac{4}{16}$ $\frac{12}{16}$ $\frac{12}{16}$

194 pp pp pp pp $\frac{12}{16}$ $\frac{6}{16}$ $\frac{6}{16}$ $\frac{4}{16}$

194 $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{12}{16}$ $\frac{6}{16}$ $\frac{6}{16}$ $\frac{4}{16}$

199 with movement ord. (♩=♩) $\frac{8}{16}$ $\frac{8}{16}$ $\frac{18}{16}$ $\frac{6}{16}$ $\frac{4}{16}$

199 $\frac{4}{16}$ $\frac{18}{16}$ $\frac{6}{16}$ $\frac{6}{16}$ $\frac{4}{16}$

199 with movement (♩=♩) $\frac{8}{16}$ $\frac{8}{16}$ $\frac{18}{16}$ $\frac{6}{16}$ $\frac{6}{16}$ $\frac{4}{16}$

204

 204

 209

 209

 215

 215

 221

 221

226

226

229

229

231

235

235

236

236

IV. Riverrun

$\text{♩} = 102; \text{♪} = 136$ Rhythmic and Energetic

pizz.

(♩=♪)

240

240 $\text{♩} = 102; \text{♪} = 136$ Rhythmic and Energetic (♩=♪)

p

245 (♩=♪) mm. 246-269: accents in the string parts should be played only slightly louder than the unaccented notes in the passage.

(pizz.)

245 (♩=♪)

249

249

$ff \dot(p)$

mp

The musical score consists of two staves: treble and bass. The score begins with a dynamic of mf followed by p . The bass staff has a dynamic of mf followed by p . The score concludes with a dynamic of ff followed by mp .

253

mf *p*

mf *p*

253

ff
mf *p*

256

mf *p*

mf *p*

256

ff *(p)* *p*

259

259

ff *(p)*

262

262

266

266

266

270

270

274

f

f

274

6 6 6 6 6 6

V.. V.. V.. V.. V.. V..

278

p f

p f

278

6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6

V.. V.. V.. V.. V.. V.. V.. V..

282

ff 6 6 6 6 6 6

282

6 6 6 6 6 6

V.. V.. V.. V.. V.. V..

ff

286

286

p

ff

290

($\text{♪}=\text{♪}$) pizz.

$\frac{12}{16}$ *p* pizz.

$\frac{12}{16}$

290

p

f

p

($\text{♪}=\text{♪}$) *p*

293

sfz

f

arco *espress.*

$\frac{2}{4}$

sfz

($\text{♪}=\text{♪}$)

293

$\frac{2}{4}$

sfz

mp

$\frac{6}{4}$ $\frac{6}{4}$ $\frac{6}{4}$ $\frac{6}{4}$

v. *v.* *v.* *v.* *v.* *v.* *v.* *v.*

297

p

f

297

p

V.

301

f

301

V.

305

s.p.

f

V.

305

V.

310

310

315

315

319

319

col legno battuto

323

col legno battuto

323

ff

p

(♩=♪)

16

16

(♩=♪)

327

pizz.

pizz.

f

mp

(♩=♪)

327

f

mp

12

9

3

2

4

331

f

p

mf

RH: with a 6/8 feel

331

f

335

335

(♩=♪)

339

339

(♩=♪)

342

mm. 342-352: accents in the string parts should be played
only slightly louder than the unaccented notes in the passage.

342

342

345

 345

 348

 348

 352

 352

repeat *ad lib.*, until pianist
is ready to proceed to
next measure

356

Without letting go of pedal, place a small tambourine
on top of the lowest octave of piano strings

356

Pianist: signal downbeat of m. 361

361

Pianist: signal downbeat of m. 361

361

6 6 6 6 6 6

pp *f*

6 6 6 6 6 6

pp *f*

6 6 6 6 6 6

pp *f*

364

arco

p

arco

p

f

f

364

6 6 6 6 6 6

pp *f*

6 6 6 6 6 6

pp *f*

6 6 6 6 6 6

pp *f*

grace notes should be played on the beat

367

ff

367

371

f

ff

371

375

ff

375

ff sub.

379

379

p

ff

6 6 6 6

ff

6 6 6 6

383

mp

6 6

383

mp

6 6 6

f 6

6

387

ff

ff

387

ff

ff

6 6 6 6

G1 should rattle in this passage

392

392

397

397

402

402

* From m. 406 to the end of the piece all staccatos should be equally short.
For example, staccato eighths should be as short as staccato sixteenths.

C#1 and D1 should
also rattle now

407

fff From m. 409 to the end of the piece all staccatos should be equally short.
fff For example, staccato eighths should be as short as staccato 16ths.

407

f 6 6 6

411

6 3 *fff*

415

f 6 6 6 6

418

418

mp

mp

419

mp

420

421

422

IV. Riverrun

alternate notation

$\text{♩} = 102; \text{♪} = 136$ Rhythmic and Energetic

pizz.

($\text{♪}=\text{♪}$)

$\text{♩} = 102; \text{♪} = 136$ Rhythmic and Energetic

($\text{♪}=\text{♪}$)

p

($\text{♪}=\text{♪}$) mm. 246-269: accents in the string parts should be played
only slightly louder than the unaccented notes in the passage.
(pizz.)

($\text{♪}=\text{♪}$)

249

mf

p

mf

p

249

ff

(p)

mp

253

16
16
16
16

mf *p*
mf *p*

253

16
16
16
16

ff *ff*
mf *p*
ff

256

16
16
16
16

mf *p*
mf *p*

256

16
16
16
16

ff *ff*
(p) *ff*
ff

259

16
16
16
16

ff *ff*
ff

259

16
16
16
16

ff *ff*
(p) *ff*
ff

262

262

mf

ff *mp*

mf

ff *(mf)*

266

266

f

f

266

mf

mf

270

270

pp

pp

47

274

f

f

274

6 6 6 6 6 6

V V V V V V

278

p p f f

278

6 6 6 6 6 6

V V V V V V

282

ff 6 6 6 6

282

6 6 6 6

ff ff ff ff

297

p

f

297

p

V.

301

f

301

V.

305

s.p.

f

V.

305

V.

310

310

315

315

319

319

col legno battuto

323

col legno battuto

323

ff

p

(♩=♪)

16

16

16

(♩=♪)

327 pizz.

pizz.

f

327

f

mp

(♩=♪)

16

9

3

2

4

331

f

p

RH: with a 6/8 feel

331

f

mf

335

335

(♩=♪)

339

339

(♩=♪)

342

mm. 342-352: accents in the string parts should be played
only slightly louder than the unaccented notes in the passage.

342

342

345 16 16
 345 16 16
 348 16 16
 348 16 16
 352 16 16
 352 16 16

repeat *ad lib.*, until pianist is ready to proceed to next measure

Without letting go of pedal, place a small tambourine on top of the lowest octave of piano strings

Pianist: signal downbeat of m. 361

Pianist: signal downbeat of m. 361

364 arco

grace notes should be played on the beat

367

ff

367

371

f

ff

371

375

ff

375

ff sub.

379

379

p

ff

383

mp

383

mp

f

387

ff

387

ff

G1 should rattle in this passage

392

392

397

397

402

402

* From m. 406 to the end of the piece all staccatos should be equally short.
For example, staccato eighthths should be as short as staccato 16ths.

C#1 and D1 should
also rattle now

407

fff From m. 409 to the end of the piece all staccatos should be equally short.
For example, staccato eighths should be as short as staccato 16ths.

407

f

6 6 6

411

fff

6 3

415

f

6 6 6 6 6

418

mp

418

mp

419

mp

422

422