

Lyrics and melody: Robert Wyatt
Arrangement: Regin Petersen

A Last Straw

(v 231015)

With the support of

STATENS KUNSTFOND

A Last Straw

A Last Straw is a free interpretation on the song with the same name by Robert Wyatt. The piece was commissioned by *Athelas Sinfonietta Copenhagen* with the support of *The Danish Arts Foundation* and was premiered 23/10 2015 during the *Wundergrund Festival*.

Performance notes and instruments:

Lead singer

Amplified, with analogue ecco and delay pedal. Further information might be added in a later version of the score

Flute

Oboe

Clarinet in Bb

Bassoon

Horn in F

Trumpet in Bb

With and without mute

Trombone

With plunger (optional Harmon Mute)

Perc 1

Cymbal on stand. Played on by hand, bow and whisks
Chimes. Metal glass or sim. High pitched of any size
Bass Drum. Played with soft mallets
Rain Stick

Marimba

2 bows and mallets

Harp

Piano

Violin 1

Violin 2

Viola

Violon cello

Contra bass

5 stringed (C-string)
Alternatively: 4 stringed bass with E-string tuned to C

Technical notes:

The lead singer must be amplified. Two or more ecco and delay pedal are used.

It is recommended to supply the conductor with a clicktrack.

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The piece starts with the lead singer making "body sounds" with the microphone.
On cue the conductor starts on A

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30-90"

The musical score is arranged in a standard orchestral format with the following parts from top to bottom:

- Lead:** A single staff with a treble clef, containing a continuous wavy line representing "body sounds".
- Flute:** A single staff with a treble clef.
- Oboe:** A single staff with a treble clef.
- Clarinet in B \flat :** A single staff with a treble clef.
- Bassoon:** A single staff with a bass clef.
- Horn in F:** A single staff with a treble clef.
- Trumpet in B \flat :** A single staff with a treble clef.
- Trombone:** A single staff with a bass clef.
- Percussion:** A single staff with a double bar line.
- Marimba:** A single staff with a treble clef.
- Harp:** A single staff with a treble clef.
- Piano:** A grand staff consisting of two staves, one with a treble clef and one with a bass clef.
- Violin 1:** A single staff with a treble clef.
- Violin 2:** A single staff with a treble clef.
- Viola:** A single staff with an alto clef.
- Violoncello:** A single staff with a bass clef.
- Contrabass:** A single staff with a bass clef.

A

2 (2 bars count in for conductor)

B

Lead

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

Hn.

Tpt.

Tbn.

Perc.

Mar.

Hp.

Pno.

A

B

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

ord.

21

Lead

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

Hn.

Tpt.

Tbn.

Perc

Mar.

Hp.

Pno.

Blow air. Only sound of air should be produced

Stop bell with hand. Still only air sound

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

Sul A. Play on bridge. Minimum bow pressure. Very subtle highpitched sound should be produced

G

35

Lead

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

Hn.

Tpt.

Tbn.

Cym.

Mar.

Hp.

Pno.

G

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

Metal Chimes

Sul G

Sul D

mp

mf

f

mp

mf

f

mp

mf

f

mp

mf

f

pp

pp

f

pp

pp

p

Sul G

Nat. harmonic gliss

44 **H**

I Verse 1

Lead *Sea*

Fl. *pp* *p*

Ob. *p* *f*

Cl. *mf* *p*

Bsn. *pp* *ppp*

Hn. *p* *f* *p* *ppp*

Tpt.

Tbn. *p* *f* *p* *ppp* *pp*

Cym.

Mar. *pp* *pp* *mf* *pp* *ppp* *mp* *ppp* (arco sempre) (arco)

Hp.

Pno. *ppp* *pp*

Vln. 1 *pp* *ppp* *mf* *ppp* *p* **H** **I**

Vln. 2 *pp* *ppp* *mf* *ppp*

Vla. *ppp* *ppp* *mf* *ppp*

Vc. *ppp* *ppp* *mf*

Cb.

J

50

Lead *weed* *tang - - - - - led*

Fl. *f* *p* *p* *f* *p*

Ob.

Cl. *p* *f* *p* *p*

Bsn. *p* *pp* *ppp* *p* *gliss.*

Hn. *p* *ppp* *p*

Tpt.

Tbn. *mp* *pp* *ppp* *p* *gliss.* Optional / Alternative line

Cym.

Mar. *mp* *ppp* *mp* *ppp* *mp*

Hp.

Pno.

Vln. 1 *ppp*

Vln. 2 *p*

Vla. *p*

Vc. *ppp* *p*

Cb. *ppp*

K

Lead in our home

Fl. *p* *f* *p*

Ob.

Cl. *f* *p* *p* *f*

Bsn. *ppp* *ppp* *p* *gliss.* *ppp* *p*

Hn. *ppp* *p*

Tpt. *ppp*

Tbn. *ppp* *ppp* *p* *gliss.* *ppp* *ppp* *ppp*

Cym.

Mar. *ppp* *mp* *ppp* *mp* *ppp* *mp*

Hp.

Pno.

Vln. 1 *p*

Vln. 2 *ppp* *p*

Vla. *ppp* *p*

Vc. *ppp*

Cb. *gliss.* *ppp*

Plunger (Alt. harmon mute)
"Wau wau" - vibrato style

Sul G
Nat. harmonic gliss

L

64

Lead *Sea - - - - - weed*

Fl. *p f p*

Ob.

Cl. *p f*

Bsn. *mf ppp p pp*

Hn. *ppp p*

Tpt. *mp ppp*

Tbn. *mp ppp ppp p pp*
Optional / Alternative line

Cym.

Mar. *(arco) ppp mp ppp mp*

Hp. *mp*

Pno.

Vln. 1 *pp p*

Vln. 2 *ppp p*

Vla. *ppp p*

Vc. *p*

Cb. *gliss. gliss. p ppp*

M

71

Lead *tang - - - - - led*

Fl. *p - - - - - f - - - - - p*

Ob.

Cl. *p - - - - - p - - - - - f - - - - - p*

Bsn. *ppp - - - - - p - - - - - gliss. - - - - - ppp*

Hn. *ppp - - - - - p - - - - - p - - - - - p*

Tpt.

Tbn. *ppp - - - - - p - - - - - gliss. - - - - - ppp*

Cym.

Mar. *ppp - - - - - mp - - - - - ppp - - - - - mp - - - - - ppp*

Hp.

Pno.

Vln. 1 *ppp - - - - - p - - - - - p - - - - - p*

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc. *ppp - - - - - p - - - - - p - - - - - p*

Cb.

78 **N** **O**

Lead in our home from

Fl. *p* *f* *p*

Ob.

Cl. *p* *f* *p*

Bsn. *ppp* *p* *ppp* *p* *f* *p*

Hn. *ppp* *p* Stopped horn *pp*

Tpt. *ppp* *p*

Tbn. *ppp* *p* *ppp* *mp*

Cym.

Mar. *mp* *ppp* *mp* *ppp* *mp* *p* *mf* *p*

Hp.

Pno.

Vln. 1 *p* **N** **O**

Vln. 2 *ppp* *p*

Vla. *ppp* *p*

Vc. *ppp* *p*

Cb. *ppp*

P

Lead *home* Please

Fl. *p* *f* *p*

Ob.

Cl. *f* *p* *f*

Bsn. *p* *f* *p* *p*

Hn. *mp*

Tpt.

Tbn. *ppp* *ppp* *ppp* *p*

Cym. Gently tap cymbal with two fingers
Cymbal *pp* *p*

Mar. *mf* *ppp* *mp*

Hp.

Pno. *p* *mp*

Vln. 1 *ppp* *p*

Vln. 2 *ppp*

Vla.

Vc. *ppp*

Cb. *p*

90 **Q**

Lead
don't wait for

Fl.
p *f* *p* *p*

Ob.

Cl.
p *f*

Bsn.
f *p*

Hn.
pp *mp*

Tpt.

Tbn.

Cym.

Mar.
ppp *mf* *ppp* *mf* *ppp* *mf*

Hp.

Pno.

Q

Vln. 1
ppp

Vln. 2
p

Vla.
ppp

Vc.
p

Cb.

96

Lead *the pa - - - per - - - weight - - -*

Fl. *f p f p*

Ob. *p*

Cl. *p f p f*

Bsn.

Hn. *pp mp*

Tpt.

Tbn. *pp*

Cym.

Mar. *ppp mf ppp mf p f p f p*

Hp. *3*

Pno.

Vln. 1 *p*

Vln. 2 *pp gliss.*

Vla. *p*

Vc. *3 p mp*

Cb. *p gliss.*

R

S Chorus 1

101

Lead *In - to the wa - ter we'll go*

Fl. *f* *p* *f*

Ob. *f* *mf*

Cl. *p* *f* *p* *mf*

Bsn.

Hn. *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

Tpt. *mf*

Tbn. *mf* *mf* *mf* *p*

Cym. *pp* *p* *To B. D.*

Mar. *ff* *Change to mallets*

Hp. *mf*

Pno.

Vln. 1 *p* *f* *p* *f* *p*

Vln. 2 *p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f*

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

Vc. *mf* *f* *p* *f* *p* *p*

Cb. *f* *p* *f*

S

T

U

Lead *106*
 head ov-er hill We'll not grow fat in-side the

Fl. *p mf f*

Ob. *f mf*

Cl. *f mf*

Bsn. *p f*

Hn. *pp f*

Tpt. *pp f*

Tbn. *pp f*

Cym. Bass Drum *p*

Mar. Marimba mallets *mp*

Hp. *mf ff mf*

Pno. *f*

Vln. 1 *f* *cresc. molto* *ff* *p*

Vln. 2 *cresc. molto* *ff* *p* *f*

Vla. *cresc. molto* *ff* *p* *f*

Vc. *cresc. molto* *ff* *p* *f*

Cb. *mf* *cresc. molto* *ff*

22 **Intermezzo**

119 **W** **X**

Lead

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

Hn.

Tpt.

Tbn.

B. D.

Mar.

Hp.

Pno.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

p *f*

f *pp* *mf*

f *pp* *mf*

Cymbal With Whiskers [Slowly move the whiskers around the cymbal] *pp* *mp*

Change to bow

mf *pp* *mf* *pp* *mf* *ff* *pp* *mf*

Lead

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

Hn.

Tpt.

Tbn.

Cym.

Mar.

Hp.

Pno.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

A1

Lead

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

Detailed description: This block contains the staves for the woodwind section. The Lead staff is empty. The Flute staff is empty. The Oboe staff has a melodic line starting with a half note, followed by a quarter note, and then a half note, with a dynamic marking of *mp*. The Clarinet staff has a melodic line starting with a quarter rest, followed by a quarter note, and then a half note, with a dynamic marking of *mp*. The Bassoon staff is empty.

Hn.

Tpt.

Tbn.

Detailed description: This block contains the staves for the brass section. The Horns staff has a melodic line starting with a quarter note, followed by a quarter note, and then a half note, with dynamic markings of *pp* and *mf*. The Trumpets staff has a melodic line starting with a quarter rest, followed by a quarter note, and then a half note, with a dynamic marking of *mp*. The Trombones staff has a melodic line starting with a quarter note, followed by a quarter note, and then a half note, with dynamic markings of *pp* and *mf*.

Cym.

Detailed description: This block contains the staff for the Cymbals. It features a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with a dynamic marking of *pp* and *mp*. The text "To B. D." is written above the staff.

Mar.

Detailed description: This block contains the staff for the Maracas, which is empty.

Hp.

Detailed description: This block contains the staff for the Harp, featuring a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes.

Pno.

Detailed description: This block contains the staff for the Piano, which is empty.

A1

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

Detailed description: This block contains the staves for the string section. The Violin 1 staff has a melodic line starting with a quarter note, followed by a quarter note, and then a half note, with a dynamic marking of *mf*. The Violin 2 staff has a melodic line starting with a quarter note, followed by a quarter note, and then a half note, with dynamic markings of *mf* and *p*. The Viola staff has a melodic line starting with a quarter note, followed by a quarter note, and then a half note, with dynamic markings of *mf* and *p*. The Violoncello staff has a melodic line starting with a quarter note, followed by a quarter note, and then a half note, with dynamic markings of *pp* and *mf*. The Contrabass staff is empty.

Lead

Fl. *mf* *f*

Ob. *f*

Cl. *f*

Bsn. *p* *f* *p*

Hn. *f* *p* *f* *p*

Tpt. *f*

Tbn. *p* *f* *p* *f* *p*

B. D.

Mar. *(mf)* *(f)*

Hp.

Pno.

C1

Vln. 1 *f* *mp*

Vln. 2 *p* *f*

Vla. *f* *mp*

Vc. *f*

Cb. *f*

150

Lead

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

Hn.

Tpt.

Tbn.

B. D.

Mar.

Hp.

Pno.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

Metal Chimes To R.S.

Lead

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

dim. poco a poco

dim. poco a poco

Hn.

Tpt.

Tbn.

p *f* *p* *mf* *pp*

Mute out

dim molto

f *p* *f* *pp*

B. D.

Mar.

Hp.

Pno.

6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6

6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

pp *pp* *pp* *pp* *pp*

E1

F1

G1

159

Lead

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

Hn.

Tpt.

Tbn.

R.S.

Mar.

Hp.

Pno.

F1

G1

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

Verse 2

H1

30

166

Lead

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

Hn.

Tpt.

Tbn.

R.S.

Mar.

Hp.

Pno.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

Re - - -

p *f* *p* *f* *p* *f* *p*

f *p* *p* *f* *p*

mp *ppp*

mp *ppp*

Optional part

Arco *ppp* *mf*

p

ppp

pp

H1

I1

174

Lead: minds re - - - - - minds

Fl.: *f* *p* *p* *f* *p*

Ob.: Key clicks *p* *f*

Cl.: *p* *f* *p* *p*

Bsn.: *p* *pp* *ppp* *p*

Hn.: *ppp* *p* *ppp*

Tpt.:

Tbn.: *p* *pp* *ppp* *p*

R.S.:

Mar.: *ppp* *mf* *ppp* *mf* *ppp* *mf*

Hp.:

Pno.: *ppp*

Vln. 1: *pp*

Vln. 2: *pp*

Vla.:

Vc.:

Cb.:

Damp strings with hand *ppp*

I1

J1

K1

Lead: me of

Fl.: Whistle tones

Ob.: *p* *f* *ppp* Multiphonic. Same as before

Cl.: *f* *p* *p* *mf*

Bsn.: *ppp* *p* Key clicks *p* *f*

Hn.: *p* *ppp* *pp* *mp* *pp* Air sound

Tbn.: *ppp* *ppp* *pp* *mp* *pp* Air sound

R.S.: Cymbal *ppp* Bow on side (normal) *pp* l.v.

Mar.: *ppp* *mf* *ppp* *mf*

Hp.: *ppp*

Pno.: *pp* *ppp* *pp*

J1

K1

Vln. 1: *ppp* Sul E Play on bridge

Vln. 2: *ppp* *pp* Play in waist

Vla.: *ppp* *pp* Play in waist

Vc.: *pp* *ppp* *mf* Play in waist. Only a slight "hiss" sound should be produced

Cb.: *ppp*

187 **L1** **M1**

Lead: Your roc - ky bot - tom Err

Fl.: *ppp*, *pp*, *pp*, *p*, *pp*, *p*, *p*

Ob.: *pp*, *p*, *f*, *ppp*, *p*, *p*

Cl.: *p*, *mf*, *ppp*, *pp*

Bsn.: *p*, *f*

Hn.: *ppp*, *ppp*, *pp*, *mp*, *pp*, *ppp*

Tpt.:

Tbn.: *ppp*, *pp*, *mp*, *pp*

Cym.: Bow on bell, *ppp*, *p*, *ppp*, *pp*, l.v.

Mar.: *ppp*, *p*

Hp.:

Pno.: *ppp*, *pp*

Vln. 1: *pp*, *ppp*, *pp*, *ppp*, *pp*, *pp*, *pp*

Vln. 2: *ppp*, *pp*, *ppp*, *pp*, *ppp*, *p*

Vla.: *pp*, *ppp*, *mf*, *ppp*, *pp*, *ppp*

Vc.: *p*, *mp*, *ppp*, *mf*, *ppp*, *pp*

Cb.: *mf*, *ppp*, *ppp*, *pp*, *ppp*

Vln. 1: Play in waist, Sul E Play on bridge, **M1** Ord

Vln. 2: Sul E Play on bridge

Vla.: Sul A. Play on bridge

Vc.: Sul C Slow natural harmonic gliss, As high as possible

Lead
on the good side. Touch us, when we col - lapse

Fl.
p *pp* *p* *gliss.* *gliss.* *gliss.*

Ob.
f *ppp* *p* *mp*

Cl.
pp *p* *p* *mf* *p* *gliss.*

Bsn.
p *f* *p* *f* *f*

Hn.
ppp *pp* *mp* *pp* *ppp* *p* *gliss.*

Tpt.
(Without mute) *p* *gliss.*

Tbn.
ppp *pp* *mp* *pp* *p* *gliss.*

Cym.
ppp *p* *p* *mp* More tone

Mar.
ppp *ppp* *p* *ppp*

Hp.

Pno.
ppp *pp* *ppp* *pp*

Vln. 1
p *pp* *p* *pp* *p* *gliss.* *Sul E* *Sul A* *gliss.* *f* *gliss.*

Vln. 2
pp *pp* *p* *pp* *p* *gliss.* *Sul A* *gliss.* *f* *gliss.*

Vla.
pp *pp* *p* *ppp* *pp* *pp* *Sul A. Play on bridge* *Sul D* *gliss.* *f* *gliss.*

Vc.
ppp *mf* *pp* *pp* *p* *gliss.* *(sul D)* *f* *gliss.*

Cb.
pp *p* *mf* *pp* *f* *gliss.*

N1

Sul G
During the gliss:
remove dampening finger

Sul G
During the gliss:
remove dampening finger

Sul G
During the gliss:
remove dampening finger

Corus 2

O1

P1

202

Lead: In - to the wa - ter we'll go head ov - er hill We'll not grow fat in - side the

Fl. *f* *mf* *p*

Ob. *f* *pp* *mf*

Cl. *f* *mf* *p* *mf*

Bsn. *p* *mf* *p*

Hn. *f* *pp* *mf* *p*

Tpt. *f* *p*

Tbn. *f*

Cym. To B. D. l.v.

Mar. Change to mallets *pp* *p* *mp* *f*

Hp. *pp* *p* *mf*

Pno. *p* *mp* *mf* *f*

Vln. 1 *ord.* *ff* *p* *mp* *p*

Vln. 2 *ff* *p* *mp* *p* *mf*

Vla. *ff* *p* *mp* *p* *mf*

Vc. *ff* *p* *mp* *p* *mf*

Cb. *p* *p* *mp* *pp*

218

Lead *mf* head ov - er hill *f* A head be -

Fl. *mf* *f* *gliss.*

Ob. *f* *gliss.*

Cl. *f* *gliss.*

Bsn. *p* *f* *p* *f*

Hn. *pp* *f*

Tpt. *pp* *f*

Tbn. *pp* *f*

B. D. Bass Drum *p* *f* *p*

Mar. *f*

Hp. *mf* *ff* *f*

Pno. *f* *ff* *p* *f*

Vln. 1 *f* *gliss.*

Vln. 2 *f* *gliss.* *mf*

Vla. *f* *gliss.* *mf*

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

Cb.

R1 S1

T1

Suggestions from here

224

Lead
hind me bu-ried deep in the sand

Fl.
mf *p* *f* *p*

Ob.
mf *p* *f*

Cl.
mf *p* *f* *p*

Bsn.
p *f*

Hn.
p *f* *p* *f*

Tpt.
p *f* *p* *f*

Tbn.
p *f* *p* *f*

B. D.
p *f* *p* *p* *f* *p*

Mar.
f

Hp.
f *p* *f*

Pno.
ff *p* *f*

Vln. 1
mf *ff* *p* *ff*

Vln. 2
ff *p* *ff*

Vla.
ff *p* *ff*

Vc.
ff *p* *ff*

Cb.
mf *ff* *mf* *p* *ff*

Espr.

This page of a musical score, page 40, measures 235-240, features a variety of instruments including woodwinds, brass, percussion, and strings. The woodwind section (Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Bassoon) plays rapid sixteenth-note passages, with dynamics ranging from *p* to *ff*. The brass section (Horn, Trumpet, Trombone) features sustained notes and triplets, with dynamics from *p* to *f*. The percussion section includes a Bass Drum with a dynamic range from *p* to *f*, and a Maracas part with *pp* and *p* dynamics. The piano part has a melodic line with dynamics from *p* to *f*. The string section (Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Violoncello, Contrabasso) provides a harmonic foundation with sustained notes and triplets, with dynamics from *p* to *f*. The Lead part is mostly silent, with a few notes in measures 235 and 240.

240

Lead

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

Hn.

Tpt.

Tbn.

B. D.

Mar.

Hp.

Pno.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

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

To Cym.

Change to bow

V1

W1

Lead

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

Hn.

Tpt.

Tbn.

B. D.

Mar.

Hp.

Pno.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

p *f* *pp* *p* *f* *ppp* *pp* *p* *f* *mp* *p* *f*

Damp strings with hand

Blow air

Sul C
Slow natural harmonic gliss

As high as possible

gliss. *gliss.*

Lead

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

Hn.

Tpt.

Tbn.

B. D.

Mar.

Hp.

Pno.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

Cymbals
Bow on side of cymbal (normal)
ppp < *pp*

Arco *ppp* *p*

ppp *pp* *p* *f* *p* *pp*

mf *pp* *p* *f* *p* *ppp*

mp *pp* *pp* *p* *f* *p*

mf *pp* *p* *ppp*

pp *pp* *p* *ppp*

pp *mf* *pp* *p*

pp *p*

Sul G
On the bridge

Sul C
Slow natural harmonic gliss
gliss.
As high as possible

ppp *pp* *ppp* *pp*

Y1

Z1

Lead

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

Hn.

Tpt.

Tbn.

Cym.

Mar.

Hp.

Pno.

Damp strings with hand

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

In the waist

Sul E On bridge

Sul A On bridge

Sul G On bridge

Play in waist

Y1

Z1

Lead

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

Hn.

Tpt.

Tbn.

Cym.

Mar.

Hp.

Pno.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

A2

B2

Play in waist

Sul C

Slow natural harmonic gliss

As high as possible

gliss.

gliss.

gliss.

Lead

Fl. Whistle tones

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

Hn.

Tpt.

Tbn.

Cym.

Mar.

Hp.

Pno.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.