

Cirsium

for Solo Violin, ~4'

Spencer Klaw Kennedy, 2025

PERFORMANCE NOTES: This entire piece should be played with an air of sincere sweetness.

Arrows indicate a gradual transition between bowing positions (or, at the end, ordinary playing versus tremolo.) If a change in bowing position does *not* have an arrow leading up to it, the change should be abrupt.

Bowing position abbreviations are as follows:

M.S.T. : molto sul tasto

S.T. : sul tasto

N. : normal, ordinary

S.P. : sul ponticello

M.S.P. : molto sul ponticello

Accidentals apply through the measure without octave transposition.

PROGRAM NOTES: Thistles, specifically those of the genus *Cirsium*, have grown in my yard all my life. These plants are usually considered weeds at best and irritating pests at worst (an attitude held by my father), but they are some of my favorite plants in the North American yard. The thorns give way to the most beautiful pink and purple flowers; bees and bunnies and butterflies all gather around to feast on the blossoms. Soft flexible thorns, large verdant leaves, and brilliant purple flowers, painted in a miniature for solo violin.

This work was written for Kielor Tung.

Cirsium

for solo violin

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$\text{♩} = 72$, **sweetly, legato**

S.T. → N.

IV
harm. trill on III

gliss.

p *mp* *f* *mp*

5 as before

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

11

mf *f* *mf* *f* *ff* *f*

15 S.T.

p *pp*

19 N.

trill on I

f *pp* *f* *p*

24 S.P. → M.S.P. → S.P. → N.

rall. — — — — — II

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

♩ = 72, a tempo

29

pp *p*

31

mp

33

mf

35

f

37

rit.

rit.

$\text{♩} = 56$, **grandiose, legato**

39 *ff* *tr* *fff* *f*

42 **rubato, poco accel.** ----- **molto rubato**

p *pp* *mf*

$\text{♩} = 72$, **as in the beginning**

S.T. ----- N. **harm. trill on III**

45 *p* *gliss.* *mf* *p* **legato al fine**

48 *mp* *mf* *p* *mp*

very, very lightly

51 *pp* *ppp* *p* *pp*

ord. ----- trem. ----- ord.