

BENJAMIN BRITTEN

Suite for Cello

Op. 72

Canto primo: *Sostenuto e largamente*

I Fuga: *Andante moderato*

II Lamento: *Lento rubato*

Canto secondo: *Sostenuto*

III Serenata: *Allegretto (pizzicato)*

IV Marcia: *Alla marcia moderato*

Canto terzo: *Sostenuto*

V Bordone: *Moderato quasi recitativo*

VI Moto perpetuo e Canto quarto: *Presto*

The first performance of *Suite for Cello* Op. 72 was given by Mstislav Rostropovich at the Aldeburgh Festival on 27th June 1965.

Duration: c. 21 minutes

SUITE for Cello

Edited by Mstislav Rostropovich

BENJAMIN BRITTEN
Op. 72

CANTO PRIMO

Sostenuto e largamente ($\text{♩} = 60$)

CELLO

f *f* *cresc. ed animando* *cresc.* *p* *pp* *pp* *f* *allargando* *ff*

tranquillo



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BENJAMIN BRITTEN

Second Suite for Cello

Op. 80

- I Declamato: *Largo*
- II Fuga: *Andante*
- III Scherzo: *Allegro molto*
- IV *Andante lento*
- V Ciaccona: *Allegro*

The first performance of *Second Suite for Cello* Op. 80 was given by Mstislav Rostropovich at the Aldeburgh Festival on 17th June 1968.

Duration: c. 22 minutes

SECOND SUITE for Cello

Edited by Mstislav Rostropovich

BENJAMIN BRITTEN
Op. 80

I DECLAMATO

Largo

CELLO

f *f* *f* *p* *cresc.*

sim. *f* *espress*

dim. *p* *cresc.*

cresc. *f* *lar*

pp

pp



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BENJAMIN BRITTEN

Third Suite for Cello

Op. 87

- I Introduzione: *Lento*
- II Marcia: *Allegro*
- III Canto: *Con moto*
- IV Barcarola: *Lento*
- V Dialogo: *Allegretto*
- VI Fuga: *Andante espressivo*
- VII Recitativo: *Fantastico*
- VIII Moto perpetuo: *Presto*
- IX Passacaglia: *Lento solenne*

The first performance of *Third Suite for Cello* Op. 87 was given by Mstislav Rostropovich at The Maltings, Snape on 21st December 1974.

Duration: c. 22 minutes

I wrote this suite in the early spring of 1971 and took it as a present to Slava Rostropovich when Peter Pears and I visited Moscow and Leningrad in April of that year. The occasion was a week of British music, and our programme with the London Symphony Orchestra was made memorable by the fact that both Richter and Rostropovich joined us – surely a unique gesture of Anglo-Russian friendship.

As a tribute to a great Russian musician and patriot I based this suite on Russian themes: the first three tunes were taken from Tchaikovsky's volumes of folk-song arrangements; the fourth, the 'Kontakion' (Hymn for the Departed), from the *English Hymnal*. When I played the suite through to Dmitri Shostakovich during our visit to Moscow, he remarked that he had been brought up on a different version of the Kontakion. I consulted my friend Bishop Pimen of Saratov and Volgograd, who confirmed that my version was the one he had always known and regularly used. In the score I print both versions, for players to choose whichever they prefer.

B.B.

THIRD SUITE

for Cello

Edited by Mstislav Rostropovich

BENJAMIN BRITTEN
Op. 87

I Lento (*introduzione*)

CELO

(arco) $\overset{V}{II}$

con sordino *pp*

pizz.

parlando

mf

cresc.

poco f e cresc.

(1)*

(2)

(II)

(II) 3

3

3

3

* В скобках указаны пальцы левой руки, которыми следует играть (pizz.)

Numbers in brackets refer to the fingers of the left hand with which this should be played (pizz.)