



Sonatina for  
Violoncello & Piano  
(Op. 16)

René Damen

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**Three parts:**

**One:** “Mysterious and unresolved”

**Two:** “In search of simplicity”

**Three:** “Slow dance, slightly disturbed”

**Program note:**

This sonatina is a fairly uncomplicated but sometimes unpredictable short piece in three parts. Written mostly in a conventional style, it also moves into dissonant territories yet easy enough to play for the intermediate cellist and piano player. The rhythmic base of several passages might be a bit surprising especially in part 3 with its Latin-like dance beat.

**About doublestops:**

This composition contains quite a few carefully notated doublestops for the cello. However, if some appear to be too cumbersome—or even impossible—to play, substitute at your convenience with alternative fingering that closely reflects the intended pitches.

**About barlines and time-signatures in part Two:**

In part Two, suggestive barlines without time signatures are in place just as indicators to improve readability and to leave some room for interpretation.

René Damen  
May 2026, Portugal



\* ONE \*

Misterioso e irrisolto (♩ = 82)

rit.....

*p* *pppp* *p* *pppp*

..... free phrasing (rubato) .....

5 a tempo *sul tasto*

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

*f* *mp* *f*

*Red.*

8 *ord.*

*mf* *pp* *ppp*

*mp* *f* *mp* *f*

*(Red.)*

10

*p* *mp* *ppp*

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

*(Red.)* *mf*

12

*p* *fff* *p*

*p* *f*

15

*mp* *ff*

*p* *mp* *sfz*

*mf* *f*

8va

Red.

18

*f sub.* *p* *mf* *mp* *f*

*f* *Red.*

21

*pppp*

*mp* *f*

Red.

**B** a tempo

24

*mf* *p sub.* *mp*

*p sub.* *mf* *mp* *f*

*f* *Red.*

28

*p* *rit.*

*mp* *ff* *p* *mp*

*Red.*

33

*mp* *p sub.* *cantabile dolce*

38

*acc.* *mp* *f*

*mf*

42  $\text{♩} = 90$

*spicc.* *f* *ppp*

*mp*

*Red.*

46

*p* *mf*

*spicc.* *spicc.*

*Red.*

50 *multo rit.* *Tempo: (♩ = 82)*

*mp* *mf* *mp* *p sub.*

*spicc.*

*Red.*

53 *acc.* *Tempo II: (♩ = 90)*

*mp*

56 *glissando* **D** *spicc.* *p* *mf* *spicc.*

58 (*spicc.*) *spicc.* *p* *mp* *spicc.*

61 (*spicc.*) *mf* *p* *pp* *rit.*

65 **E** *Tempo I:* (♩ = 82) *p* *mp* (*Red.*)

69 rit. .... attacca

*mf* *pppp* *tr* *8va*

(Red.)

\* TWO \*

Alla ricerca della semplicità (♩ = 64)

senza vib. *pppp* *mf sub.* *pppp* *mp* *ppp* senza vib. *mp sub.* *ppp* vib.

*mp* *Red.* *vib.*

4 acc. .... a tempo

*mp* *ppp* *mp* *f* *mp*

(Red.)

7 *acc.*..... *a tempo*

*f* *p* *mpp* *p*

*p* *mf* *p* *mf* *mp sub.*

*tr* *gva*

*Red.* *f*

9 **A**

*mp* *pp*

*mp* *mf* *ff*

10 (Notice: syncopated!)

*f* *pp* *mf*

*mp* *f* *p sub.* *f*

*gva*

*p* *Red.*

13 **B**

*p*

*mp* *mf*

*Red.*

15

*Ped.* *mf*

17

**C** *Faster* (♩ = 98)

*mp* *f* *mp* *ff*

20

*Ped.*

22

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

25 **D**

*p sub.* *mf* *p*  
*mp*  
*Red.*

28

*mp* *f* *p*  
*mf*  
*Red.*

30

*pppp*  
*f*  
*Red.*

31 **E**

*mp* *ff* *mp sub.*  
*mp* *mf*  
*Red.*

33

*mf* *f* *p*

*Red.* *mf* *f*

36

*pppp* *p*

*f* *p*

attacca



**\* THREE \***

Danza lenta, un po' disturbata (♩ = 116)

*mp*



21 **B**

pp p mf

25

29 **C**

mp ff mf

33

37

Musical score for measures 37-40. The score is in G major and 4/4 time. It features a bass line with eighth-note patterns and a treble line with chords and eighth-note accompaniment. A fermata is placed over the final note of the first measure in the bass line.

41

D

Musical score for measures 41-44. The score is in G major and 4/4 time. It features a bass line with eighth-note patterns and a treble line with chords and eighth-note accompaniment. A fermata is placed over the final note of the first measure in the bass line. A dynamic marking of *ff* is present in measure 43, and *mp sub.* is present in measure 44.

45

Musical score for measures 45-48. The score is in G major and 4/4 time. It features a bass line with eighth-note patterns and a treble line with chords and eighth-note accompaniment. A dynamic marking of *mp* is present in measure 46.

49

Musical score for measures 49-52. The score is in G major and 4/4 time. It features a bass line with eighth-note patterns and a treble line with chords and eighth-note accompaniment. A dynamic marking of *mf* is present in measure 50.

53

53

*ff* *mp* *mf*

This system contains measures 53 through 56. It features a bass line with a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes and a treble line with chords and melodic fragments. Dynamic markings include *ff*, *mp*, and *mf*.

57

57

*pp sub.* *mf* *spicc.*

*f* *pp sub.* *f* *mp*

This system contains measures 57 through 60. It includes a key signature change to E major (marked with a box 'E') and a time signature change to 4/4. The bass line has a melodic line with dynamics *pp sub.* and *mf*. The treble line has chords with dynamics *f*, *pp sub.*, *f*, and *mp*. A *spicc.* marking is present at the end of the system.

60

60

*p* *f* *mp*

*ff* *mp*

This system contains measures 61 through 63. The bass line starts with a melodic line marked *p*, then continues with a rhythmic pattern marked *f* and *mp*. The treble line features a long, sustained chord marked *ff* and *mp*.

64

64

*mf*

This system contains measures 64 through 67. The bass line has a melodic line marked *mf*. The treble line has chords and melodic fragments.

68

*ffmp*

72

*ppp p mf p*

*mf*

76

*mp f*

*f*

80

*mf*

*mf*

83

*p* *mf* *fff* *pizz.*

86

**F** *arco*

*p* (back to the original theme) *pp* *p*

*p* *mp*

90

*mp*

94

*mp* *ff* *f* *mp*

98

102

106

110

sul tasto  
senza vib.

*p* *pppp*

*mf* *ff*

