

Only A Game

For a ballet by Robert Shannon Fields

Gene Pritsker

2022

Act 1

1. A Typical German Bar

♩ = 100

Two ordinary men (Black & Red) sit at a table in front of a typical German bar...

Musical score for Violin, Viola, and Cello, measures 1-5. The score is in 4/4 time and features a melody in the Violin and Cello parts, and a harmonic accompaniment in the Viola part. The dynamic marking is *mf*.

Musical score for Violin, Viola, and Cello, measures 6-10. The score continues the melody and accompaniment from the previous system. The dynamic marking is *mf*.

You see them Indian arm wrestling. Red wins.

A

12

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

ff

ff

ff

mf sub.

norm.

tr.

6

6

6

sul pont.

Black opens up a playing board...

16

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

mp

mf

f

mp

mp

22

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

f

sub. p

mf

f

sub. p

mf

f

sub. p

mf

The two mechanical players, one black, the other red, become animated ...

A stationary struggle ensues...

Musical score for measures 27-30. The score is for Violin (Vln.), Viola (Vla.), and Violoncello (Vc.).

- Measure 27:** Vln. has a melodic line with a trill (*tr*) on the first note. Vla. and Vc. play chords.
- Measure 28:** Vln. has a trill (*tr*) on the first note. Vla. has a melodic line starting with a forte (*f*) dynamic. Vc. has a chord.
- Measure 29:** Vln. has a trill (*tr*) on the first note. Vla. continues with a melodic line, marked *sul pont.* and *p*. Vc. has a chord.
- Measure 30:** Vln. has a trill (*tr*) on the first note. Vla. continues with a melodic line, marked *very scratchy sound* and *p*. Vc. has a chord.

B

The two players reach an agreement...

Musical score for measures 30-33. The score is for Violin (Vln.), Viola (Vla.), and Violoncello (Vc.).

- Measure 30:** Vln. has a trill (*tr*) on the first note. Vla. has a melodic line with a forte (*f*) dynamic. Vc. has a chord.
- Measure 31:** Vln. has a melodic line. Vla. has a melodic line with a forte (*f*) dynamic, marked *norm.*. Vc. has a chord.
- Measure 32:** Vln. has a melodic line. Vla. has a melodic line with a forte (*f*) dynamic. Vc. has a chord.
- Measure 33:** Vln. has a melodic line. Vla. has a melodic line with a forte (*f*) dynamic. Vc. has a chord.

Musical score for measures 33-36. The score is for Violin (Vln.), Viola (Vla.), and Violoncello (Vc.).

- Measure 33:** Vln. has a melodic line, marked *flautando* and *sub. p*. Vla. has a chord. Vc. has a chord.
- Measure 34:** Vln. has a melodic line, marked *flautando*. Vla. has a melodic line, marked *p*. Vc. has a chord.
- Measure 35:** Vln. has a melodic line, marked *flautando*. Vla. has a melodic line, marked *p*. Vc. has a chord.
- Measure 36:** Vln. has a melodic line, marked *flautando*. Vla. has a melodic line, marked *p*. Vc. has a melodic line, marked *p*.

39

Vln. *mf* norm. *p*

Vla. *mf* norm. *p*

Vc. *mf* norm. *p*

44

Vln. *f* sul pont. *p*

Vla. *f* sul pont. *p*

Vc. *f* sul pont. *p*

The barman throws the dice onto the board.

2. The Game Starts

C ♩ = 135

50

Vln. norm. *ff* *mp*

Vla. norm. *ff* *mp*

Vc. norm. *ff* *mp*

54

Vln. *f*

Vla. *f*

Vc. *f*

58

Vln. *mf*

Vla. *mp sub.*

Vc. *mp sub.*

Black goes to the warehouse for houses.

61

Vln. *ff* *p*

Vla. *ff* *p*

Vc. *ff* *p*

D

Vln. *f sub.*

Vla. *f sub.*

Vc. *f sub.*

He thrusts forth a big wad of money

69

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

72

Vln. *p* *pp*

Vla. *p* *pp*

Vc. *p* *mp*

75

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

3

3

77

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

mp

mp

f

Meanwhile, Red has moved on from the bank to industry.

79

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

f

f

3

3

3

3

3

E

81

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

3 3 3 3

p *f sub.*

p *f sub.*

p *f sub.*

86

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

p *ff*

p *ff*

p *ff*

slow gliss.

Red pulls out his wad.

92

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

3 3 3 3

p *ff*

p *ff*

p *ff*

95

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

F They play the game. Moving around the playing board...

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

100

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

103

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

106

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

p *mf*

p *mf*

p *mf*

rit.

Until, that is, Red has made a very large profit.

G ♩ = 90

111

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

f

f

f

gleefully goes to the Roulette casino...

Musical score for measures 117-122. The score is for Violin (Vln.), Viola (Vla.), and Violoncello (Vc.). Measure 117 starts with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The Vln. part has a *mp* dynamic and a trill (*tr*) over a whole note chord. The Vla. part has a *mp* dynamic and a trill (*tr*) over a whole note chord. The Vc. part has a *f* dynamic and a melodic line. Measures 118-122 continue with various dynamics (*mp*, *f*) and trills (*tr*) in the Vln. and Vla. parts.

Musical score for measures 123-127. The score is for Violin (Vln.), Viola (Vla.), and Violoncello (Vc.). Measure 123 starts with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The Vln. part has a *f* dynamic and a trill (*tr*) over a whole note chord. The Vla. part has a *f* dynamic and a melodic line. The Vc. part has a *f* dynamic and a melodic line. Measures 124-127 continue with various dynamics (*f*, *mp*, *mf*) and trills (*tr*) in the Vln. and Vla. parts. The Vc. part has a *mp* dynamic and a melodic line. The text "sul pont." is written above the Vln. part in measures 124 and 125.

Very soon, Black has a Monopoly on the board and Red is out on his arse.
norm.

Musical score for measures 128-133. The score is for Violin (Vln.), Viola (Vla.), and Violoncello (Vc.). Measure 128 starts with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The Vln. part has a *f* dynamic and a melodic line. The Vla. part has a *f* dynamic and a melodic line. The Vc. part has a *f* dynamic and a melodic line. Measures 129-133 continue with various dynamics (*f*, *norm.*) and trills (*tr*) in the Vln. and Vla. parts. The Vc. part has a *f* dynamic and a melodic line. The text "norm." is written above the Vln. part in measures 129 and 130.

134

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

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

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

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Act 2

3. Tic Tac Toe

♩ = 80

A woman of the night comes in

Violin

Viola

Cello

mf

f

chop

arrestre

3

Black gives a wad of notes to his improvised friend

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

mf

f

chop

arrestre

3

5

A

Vln. *f*

Vla.

Vc.

Vln. *fp* *ff*

Vla. *fp* *ff*

Vc. *fp* *ff*

The prostitute sits at the table

B

chop jete

Vln. *mf*

Vla. *mf* *arrestre*

Vc. *mf*

The barman brings out a new game

Musical score for measures 20-22. The score is for Violin (Vln.), Viola (Vla.), and Violoncello (Vc.).

- Measure 20:** Vln. starts with a triplet of eighth notes. Vla. has a triplet of eighth notes. Vc. has a quarter note.
- Measure 21:** Vln. has a triplet of eighth notes. Vla. has a quarter note. Vc. has a quarter note.
- Measure 22:** Vln. has a triplet of eighth notes. Vla. has a quarter note. Vc. has a quarter note.

Dynamic markings: *f* (forte) is present in measures 20 and 21.

Musical score for measures 23-25. The score is for Violin (Vln.), Viola (Vla.), and Violoncello (Vc.).

- Measure 23:** Vln. has a triplet of eighth notes. Vla. has a triplet of eighth notes. Vc. has a quarter note.
- Measure 24:** Vln. has a quarter note. Vla. has a quarter note. Vc. has a quarter note.
- Measure 25:** Vln. has a triplet of eighth notes. Vla. has a triplet of eighth notes. Vc. has a quarter note.

Dynamic markings: *mp* (mezzo-piano) is present in measures 23 and 24. *mf* (mezzo-forte) is present in measures 24 and 25. *pizz.* (pizzicato) is present in measures 24 and 25.

Musical score for measures 28-30. The score is for Violin (Vln.), Viola (Vla.), and Violoncello (Vc.).

- Measure 28:** Vln. has a quarter note. Vla. has a quarter note. Vc. has a quarter note.
- Measure 29:** Vln. has a quarter note. Vla. has a quarter note. Vc. has a quarter note.
- Measure 30:** Vln. has a quarter note. Vla. has a quarter note. Vc. has a quarter note.

D 4. The Love Game

The heads of Black and the woman touch together.

♩ = 70

32

Vln. arco *ff* *mp* *f*

Vla. arco *ff* *mp* *f*

Vc. arco *ff* *mp* *f*

...bourgeoise salon, Black enters

Red peeks enviously through the window

37

Vln. *p*

Vla. *p*

Vc. *p*

It is now the 'Love Theme'

42

Vln. *p*

Vla. *p*

Vc. *p*

46

Vln. *mp*

Vla. *mp*

Vc. *mp*

50

E ♩ = 90

Vln. *mf*

Vla. *mp sub.* *mf*

Vc. *mp sub.* *mf*

55

Vln. *f* *pp sub.*

Vla. *f* *pp sub.*

Vc. *f* *mp*

He pays his hypocritical duty in church

Musical score for measures 59-63, featuring Violin (Vln.), Viola (Vla.), and Violoncello (Vc.). The score includes dynamic markings *mf* and *mp*, and contains triplet figures in the upper staves.

Musical score for measures 64-71, featuring Violin (Vln.), Viola (Vla.), and Violoncello (Vc.). The score consists of sustained notes and chords across all staves.

He plays the seduction game with the mid-servant

Musical score for measures 72-75, featuring Violin (Vln.), Viola (Vla.), and Violoncello (Vc.). The score includes a tempo marking $\text{♩} = 120$ and a key signature change to F major (F). Dynamic markings include *f*. The score features triplet figures in the upper staves.

78

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

f *p* *f*

sul pont. norm. chop

arrestre

sul pont. norm.

83

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

p *f* *p* *f*

86

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

6 6

89

Vln. *f*

Vla.

Vc.

92

Vln. *f*

Vla.

Vc.

96

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

Not enough for him, he rapes her.

Musical score for measures 100-103. The score is for Violin (Vln.), Viola (Vla.), and Violoncello (Vc.). Measure 100 is marked with a first ending bracket. The music features a complex rhythmic pattern with many sixteenth notes and triplets. A dynamic hairpin is present under the first ending. Measure 103 contains a triplet of eighth notes.

G ♩ = 80

He looks across the stage, out of his grand window towards Red's kingdom

Musical score for measures 104-107. The score is for Violin (Vln.), Viola (Vla.), and Violoncello (Vc.). Measure 104 is marked with a first ending bracket. The music consists of sustained chords and long notes. Dynamics are marked as *p* (piano) and *mf* (mezzo-forte). A crescendo hairpin is shown between measures 105 and 106. Measure 107 ends with a *f* (forte) dynamic.

Musical score for measures 111-114. The score is for Violin (Vln.), Viola (Vla.), and Violoncello (Vc.). The music features sustained chords and long notes. A crescendo hairpin is shown between measures 111 and 112.

118

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

f

They arrive. The Black Field Marshal

124

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

ff

sul pont.

Black realizes Red is approaching

Vc. 20

sul pont. ---- norm.

fp < > < > *f*

Vc. 25

fp < > < > < > < > *f*

Vc. 28

Black calls forth a special game from the barman

Vc. 30

sul pont.

fp < > *ff* < > *p sub.* 5

the board is unfolded

Vc. 37

p < > < > < > < > *f*

sul pont. 5

A 6. Battle

♩ = 140

Armies stand at the ready

ff < > < > < > < > *ff*

ff < > < > < > < > *ff*

ff < > < > < > < > *ff*

B Then the serious fighting begins

58

Vln. *p* ----- norm. *ff*

Vla. *p* ----- norm. *ff*

Vc. *p* ----- norm. *ff*

63

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

66

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

69

Vln. *mp* *f* *ff*

Vla. *mp* *f* *ff*

Vc. *mp* *f* *ff*

73

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

76

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

C

79

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

83

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

86

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

Black looks worried

90

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

mp *f* *p* *ff*

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for measures 90 through 95. It features three staves: Violin (Vln.), Viola (Vla.), and Violoncello (Vc.). The Violin part starts with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. It includes a triplet of eighth notes in measure 90, followed by trills (tr) in measures 91, 92, 94, and 95. Dynamics range from mezzo-piano (mp) to fortissimo (ff). The Viola and Violoncello parts use bass clefs and mirror the melodic lines of the Violin part, also featuring trills and dynamic markings.

D

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

f *ff*

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for measures 96 through 100. The Violin part (Vln.) is mostly silent, with a final measure (100) featuring a fortissimo (ff) chord. The Viola (Vla.) and Violoncello (Vc.) parts are active throughout, playing a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth and sixteenth notes. The Viola part starts with a forte (f) dynamic. The Violoncello part provides a steady bass line with dynamic markings.

100

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for measures 101 through 105. The Violin part (Vln.) is active, playing a melodic line with many accents (>) and slurs. The Viola (Vla.) and Violoncello (Vc.) parts continue their accompaniment, with the Viola part showing some dynamic markings like *f* and *ff*.

Red army in flight

103

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

mp *ff*

107

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

f

110

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

114

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

The red soldiers fall into a slanting, forward offensive pose

E

118

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

ff

ff

ff

124

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

F

They are halted by self-paralysis, the paralysis of fear

127

Vln. *mp* *f*

Vla. *mp* *f*

Vc. *mp* sul pont. norm. *f*

133

Vln. *tr*

Vla. *tr*

Vc. *tr*

140

Vln. *mp*

Vla. *mp*

Vc. *mp*

147

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

slow gliss.

pp

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for measures 147 through 153. It features three staves: Violin (Vln.), Viola (Vla.), and Violoncello (Vc.). The Violin part starts with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The Viola and Violoncello parts use bass clefs. The music is characterized by long, flowing lines with many slurs and ties. Dynamics are marked as *pp* (pianissimo) in the latter half of the section. A specific instruction 'slow gliss.' (slow glissando) is written above the Viola staff in measure 150. There are also some trill-like markings (tr) in the Violin and Viola parts.

154

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

G ♩ = 80

A panel shoots up from his tank, a great red button in the middle

ff

f

f

f

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for measures 154 through 158. It features three staves: Violin (Vln.), Viola (Vla.), and Violoncello (Vc.). A tempo change is indicated by a box containing the letter 'G' and a quarter note followed by '= 80'. The music is more rhythmic and dynamic than the previous section, with many accents and slurs. Dynamics range from *ff* (fortissimo) to *f* (forte). There are several triplet markings (3) in the Viola and Violoncello parts. The text 'A panel shoots up from his tank, a great red button in the middle' is written above the staves, corresponding to the dramatic events in the scene.

159

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

detonates the weapon

mf

f

ff

mf

f

ff

mf

f

ff

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for measures 159 through 164. It features three staves: Violin (Vln.), Viola (Vla.), and Violoncello (Vc.). The music continues with dynamic markings of *mf* (mezzo-forte), *f* (forte), and *ff* (fortissimo). There are several triplet markings (3) and slurs throughout. The text 'detonates the weapon' is written above the staves, indicating a key dramatic moment. The score ends with a final cadence in measure 164.

165

Vln. *p*

Vla. *p* sul pont. *mf* 3 norm.

Vc. *p* sul pont. *mf* 3 norm.

They're already burnt out of existence by a hydrogen bomb.

H 6. Bezahlm bitte

172

Vln. *pp* *mf*

Vla. *mf* *pp* *mf* pizz.

Vc. *pp* *mf* pizz.

180

Vln. pizz.

Vla. pizz.

Vc. arco

188

Vln. arco pizz.

Vla. arco

Vc.

196

Vln.

Vla. pizz.

Vc. arco

204

Vln. arco *rit.*

Vla. arco *f* *p*

Vc. *f* *p*

Barman syas:
"Bezahlen bitte"