

Charlie Barber

LUDWIG

piano quintet

Instrumentation:

Piano

String Quartet (2 Violins, Viola and Cello)

Duration: c. 11 minutes

Programme note:

- 1 Allegro con brio**
- 2 Adagio sostenuto: delicatissimamente**
- 3 Allegro vivace**

LUDWIG is a piano quintet in three movements that pays tribute to Beethoven by re-imagining key elements from three of his most iconic works. Rather than quoting directly, the music reshapes and re-contextualizes fragments of Beethoven's material, casting them in a new, contemporary light while retaining their dramatic essence.

The opening movement, *Allegro con brio*, is a compressed reworking of the first movement of Beethoven's *Symphony No. 7 in A major, Op. 92*. The familiar ascending scales and low sustained pedal points are restructured and interwoven with vibrant, dance-like rhythms, infused with colours drawn from Latin American musical traditions. The result is both a tribute and a transformation—energized, rhythmically dynamic, and fresh in character.

The second movement, *Adagio sostenuto: delicatissimamente*, takes its starting point from the opening bars of the “Moonlight” Sonata (*Piano Sonata No. 14 in C-sharp minor, Op. 27 No. 2*). The well-known quaver-triplet figure becomes the basis for a delicately layered texture, first appearing as an interlocking pattern in the piano, then taken up and expanded by the strings. The atmosphere is hushed, introspective and gently luminous.

The final movement, *Allegro vivace*, draws inspiration from Beethoven's *Fidelio Overture*, particularly its passages of dramatic tension and harmonic ambiguity. The movement opens with a subdued, subterranean energy that gradually builds, propelled by sudden dynamic bursts and unresolved harmonic shifts. As in Beethoven's overture, the music moves with urgency—driven by the search for resolution, culminating in a cathartic, if ambiguous, close.

LUDWIG is a conversation across time—a creative engagement with Beethoven's music that refracts his voice through the lens of contemporary language, colour and form.

Charlie Barber, August 2019

for Piano Quintet

Charlie Barber

22

B

8

Pno.

f

Vln I

f

Vln II

f

Vla

f

Vc.

f

23

22

23

22

11

Pno.

f

Vln I

f

Vln II

f

Vla

f

Vc.

f

22

23

22

23

14

Pno.

sim.

Vln I

sim.

Vln II

sim.

Vla

sim.

Vc.

sim.

2/3 2/2 2/3 2/2

17

Pno.

f

f

f

Vln I

f

Vln II

f

Vla

f

Vc.

f

C

2/3 2/3 2/3

21

Pno.

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

sim.

sim.

sim.

sim.

sim.

22

23

22

22

23

22

22

23

22

22

23

22

24

Pno.

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

p

22

23

22

22

23

22

22

23

22

22

23

22

D

28

Pno.

p

f

p

f

Vln I

pp subito

Vln II

pp subito

Vla

pp subito

Vc.

pp subito

3
4

31

Pno.

sf

sf

Vln I

mf

Vln II

mf

Vla

mf

Vc.

pizz.
(snap)

sf

arco

mf

3
4

E**3**
4

34

Pno.

R.H.

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

f *mp* *cresc.*

f *mp* *cresc.*

f *mp* *cresc.*

f *mp* *cresc.*

||

41

Pno.

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

f *f* *f* *f* *f* *f*

44

Pno. *sim.*

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

2

3

4

F

47

Pno. *R.H.*

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

3

4

f *mp* *cresc.*

f *mp* *cresc.* *f*

f *mp* *cresc.*

f *mp* *cresc.* *f*

54

Pno.

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

f *p* *f* *p* *sf* *p* *p* *sf* *p*

22 23 22 23

58

Pno.

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

f *p* *ff* *sf* *mp* *f* *sf* *mp* *f* *mp* *f*

22 23 22 22

G

61

Pno.

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

64

Pno.

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

sim.

sim.

sim.

sim.

sim.

67

Pno.

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

70

Pno.

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

H

ff

ff

ff

ff

73

Pno.

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

77

Pno.

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

81

Pno.

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

Measures 81-83. The score is in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. Measure 81 features a piano accompaniment with a half note in the right hand and a half note in the left hand. The strings (Vln I, Vln II, Vla, Vc.) play a half note in the right hand and a half note in the left hand. Measure 82 features a piano accompaniment with a half note in the right hand and a half note in the left hand. The strings play a half note in the right hand and a half note in the left hand. Measure 83 features a piano accompaniment with a half note in the right hand and a half note in the left hand. The strings play a half note in the right hand and a half note in the left hand.

83

Pno.

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

Measures 84-86. The score is in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. Measure 84 features a piano accompaniment with a half note in the right hand and a half note in the left hand. The strings (Vln I, Vln II, Vla, Vc.) play a half note in the right hand and a half note in the left hand. Measure 85 features a piano accompaniment with a half note in the right hand and a half note in the left hand. The strings play a half note in the right hand and a half note in the left hand. Measure 86 features a piano accompaniment with a half note in the right hand and a half note in the left hand. The strings play a half note in the right hand and a half note in the left hand.

I

3/4

85

Pno. R.H.

Vln I *f mp* *cresc.*

Vln II *f mp* *cresc.*

Vla *f mp* *cresc.*

Vc. *f mp* *cresc.*

2/3

92

Pno.

Vln I *f*

Vln II *f*

Vla *f*

Vc. *f*

95

Pno.

sim.

mf

Vln I

sim.

Vln II

sim.

Vla

sim.

Vc.

sim.

23

22

23

22

98

Pno.

p

f

p

f

sf

p

sf

Vln I

p subito

Vln II

p subito

Vla

p subito

Vc.

pizz. (snap)

sf

f

J

22

22

22

22

K

[illegible]

106

Pno.

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

sim.

sim.

sim.

sim.

sim.

112

Pno.

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

3/4

L

3/4

114

Pno.

R.H.

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

f *mp*

f *mp*

f *mp*

f *mp*

||

118

Pno.

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

cresc. *f*

cresc. *f*

cresc. *f*

cresc. *f*

128

Pno.

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

22

23

22

23

132

Pno.

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

22

23

22

23

135

Pno.

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

137

Pno.

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

N

141

Pno.

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

mf *sf* *fp* *ff*

3/2 2/2 4/4



4 2. Adagio sostenuto: delicatissimamente

145 **4/4** ♩ = 44

Pno.

Vln I **4/4** *pp*

Vln II *pp*

Vla *pp*

Vc. *pp*

B

8^{va}

149

Pno.

pp

pp

Vln I

pp

Vln II

pp

Vla

pp

Vc.

pp

**C**

152

Pno.

pp

Vln I

Vln II

mp

Vla

pp

Vc.

pizz.

arco

p

D

155 (8)

Pno.

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

==

E

158 8va

Pno.

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

pp

pp

pp

pp

F

161

Pno.

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

pp

p

p

mp

pizz.

p

mp

164

Pno.

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

G

167

Pno. *pp*

Vln I

Vln II *mp*

Vla *pp*

Vc. arco pizz. arco *pp*



H

(8)

170

Pno. *pp*

Vln I *pp*

Vln II *pp*

Vla *pp*

Vc. *pp*

I

173

Pno.

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

pp

p

mp
pizz.

pp

Measure 173: Piano part has octaves and triplets. Cello part has a triplet. Measure 174: Piano part continues with triplets. Violin I and II enter with triplets. Viola has a pizzicato entry. Measure 175: Piano part continues with triplets. Violin I and II continue with triplets. Viola continues with a long note.



176

Pno.

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

Measure 176: Piano part continues with triplets. Violin I and II continue with triplets. Measure 177: Piano part continues with triplets. Violin I and II continue with triplets. Measure 178: Piano part continues with triplets. Violin I and II continue with triplets. The Viola part has a long note across measures 176-178. The Cello part has a long note across measures 176-178.

J

179

Pno.

pp

8^{va}

Vln I

pp

Vln II

pp

Vla

pp

arco

Vc.

pp

K

182

Pno.

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

184

Pno.

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

Rit.

pp

pp

pp

pp

22

22

**A****3. Allegro vivace**

♩ = 198

187

Pno.

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

p

cresc.

mf

f

mp

f

p

f

pp

f

mf

p

cresc.

22

195

B

Pno.

f *p* *ff* *p*

Vln I

f *ff*

Vln II

f *ff*

Vla

mf *ff* *p*

Vc.

ff *p*

8^{vb}

200

Pno.

(8).....

Vln I

mp

Vln II

mp

Vla

Vc.

204

Pno.

mp

mf

Vln I

mf

Vln II

mf

Vla

mf

Vc.

mf

208

Pno.

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

212

Pno.

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

C

f

f

f

f

sf



216

Pno.

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

f

f

p

cresc.

p

f

8^{vb}-----|

225

Pno. *f* *p* *f* sim.

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

D

230

Pno.

mf

p

f

p

Vln I

mf

mp

f

mp

Vln II

mf

mp

f

mp

Vla

mf

ben marcato

mf

f

Vc.

mf

mf

ben marcato

234

Pno.

f

mp

Vln I

f

mf

Vln II

f

mf

Vla

mf

f

Vc.

f

f

246

Pno.

(8)..... *mp*

Vln I *mp*

Vln II *cresc.*

Vla *cresc.*

Vc.

250

Pno. *mf*

Vln I *mf*

Vln II *mf*

Vla *mf*

Vc. *mf*

[illegible]

263

Pno.

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

p

f

mp

f

ff

mf

f

267

Pno.

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

mf

p

mf

mp

ben marcato

f

mf

mp

f

mf

H

271

Pno.

f *mf* *mp* *f*

Vln I *mf*

Vln II *f* *mf*

Vla *mf*

Vc. *ben marcato* *mf* *f*

275

Pno.

f *ff* *f*

Vln I *f* *ff* *f p f p f p f*

Vln II *f* *f p f p f p f*

Vla *f* *ff* *f p f p f p f*

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

280

Pno.

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

I

p *f* *p* *f*

p *f* *p* *f*

p *f* *p* *f*

p *f* *p* *f*

mp

284

Pno.

(8).....| *mp*

Vln I

mp

Vln II

cresc.

Vla

cresc.

Vc.

288

Pno.

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

mf

mf

mf

mf

mf

Measures 288-291. The piano part features a melodic line in the right hand and a harmonic line in the left hand. The strings play a rhythmic pattern. Dynamics are marked *mf* for all parts.

292

Pno.

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

f

f

mf

f

f

Measures 292-295. The piano part features a melodic line in the right hand and a harmonic line in the left hand. The strings play a rhythmic pattern. Dynamics are marked *f* for the piano and Vln I, Vln II, and Vc., and *mf* for the Vla.

J

301

Pno.

8^{vb}

p *cresc.*

Vln I

p *cresc.*

Vln II

p *cresc.*

Vla

p *cresc.*

Vc.

p *cresc.*

305

Pno.

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

Vln I

f *p* *f* *p f p f* *p* sim.

Vln II

f *p* *f* *p f p f* *p* sim.

Vla

f *p* *f* *p f p f* *p* sim.

Vc.

f *p* *f* *p f p f* *p* sim.



309

Pno.

f p f sim.

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

K

314

Pno.

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

Vln I

ben marcato *f*

Vln II

ben marcato *mf* *f*

Vla

ben marcato *mf* *f*

Vc.

ben marcato *mf* *f*



319

Pno.

ff *f* *mf*

Vln I

ff

Vln II

ff

Vla

f *ff*

Vc.

f *ff*

L

323

Pno.

mf *mp* *f* *mp*

Vln I *f* *ben marcato* *ff*

Vln II *f* *ben marcato*

Vla *f* *ben marcato* *ff*

Vc. *f* *ben marcato*

Measures 323-327. The piano part features a complex texture with sixteenth-note runs in the right hand and chords in the left. The strings enter in measure 324 with a strong, accented note, marked 'ben marcato' and 'ff'.

328

Pno.

f *mf* *ff*

Vln I *f* *ff*

Vln II *ff* *ff*

Vla *f* *ff*

Vc. *ff* *ff*

Measures 328-332. The piano part continues with dense sixteenth-note patterns. The strings maintain a powerful, sustained presence, marked 'ff' throughout.

M

332

Pno.

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

f p f *p f p f* *p* *sim.*

f p f *p f p f* *p* *sim.*

f p f *p f p f* *p* *sim.*

f p f *p f p f* *p* *sim.*

N

337

Pno.

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

mf *mp* *f*

mf *mf* *mf* *mf*

341

Pno. *f* *mp* *f* *ff* *mf*

Vln I *f* *ff*

Vln II *f* *ff*

Vla *f* *ff*

Vc. *f* *ff*

345

Pno. *f* *sf* *sf*

Vln I *f*

Vln II *f*

Vla *f*

Vc. *f*

349

Pno.

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

The musical score for Charlie Barber's 'LUDWIG' (piano quintet) on page 49, measures 349 to 354. The score is written for Piano (Pno.), Violin I (Vln I), Violin II (Vln II), Viola (Vla), and Violoncello (Vc.).

Measure 349: Piano (Pno.) plays a melody in the right hand starting on G4, marked *f*. The left hand plays a bass line starting on G2, marked *sf*. Violin I (Vln I) and Violoncello (Vc.) have whole rests. Violin II (Vln II) and Viola (Vla) have whole rests.

Measure 350: Piano (Pno.) has a whole rest. Violin I (Vln I) plays a melody starting on G4, marked *f*. Violoncello (Vc.) plays a bass line starting on G2, marked *f*. Violin II (Vln II) and Viola (Vla) have whole rests.

Measure 351: Piano (Pno.) has a whole rest. Violin I (Vln I) plays a melody starting on A4, marked *f*. Violoncello (Vc.) plays a bass line starting on A2, marked *f*. Violin II (Vln II) and Viola (Vla) have whole rests.

Measure 352: Piano (Pno.) has a whole rest. Violin I (Vln I) plays a melody starting on B4, marked *f*. Violoncello (Vc.) plays a bass line starting on B2, marked *f*. Violin II (Vln II) and Viola (Vla) have whole rests.

Measure 353: Piano (Pno.) has a whole rest. Violin I (Vln I) plays a melody starting on C5, marked *ff*. Violoncello (Vc.) plays a bass line starting on C3, marked *ff*. Violin II (Vln II) and Viola (Vla) have whole rests.

Measure 354: Piano (Pno.) has a whole rest. Violin I (Vln I) plays a melody starting on D5, marked *ff*. Violoncello (Vc.) plays a bass line starting on D2, marked *ff*. Violin II (Vln II) and Viola (Vla) have whole rests.