Violin Concerto (opus 40), composed in 1981 and originally dedicated in memory of the victims of Sharpeville, was extensively revised in 1990 and 2007. It was premiered by the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra with Vanya Milanova as soloist in 1992.

The concerto is pentagonal in shape and consists of five interlinked sections: $Threnody\ 1 - accompanied\ Cadenza\ 1 - Scherzino - accompanied\ Cadenza\ 2 - Threnody\ 2.$

All of the musical material is derived from the 12-note row stated by the soloist at the outset. This row is designed so that the open string pitches of the solo instrument are given due prominence, thus enabling the violin to fulfill its idiomatic role within a serial context.

After its initial entry, the violin becomes part of the general musical argument, gradually asserting its role as soloist as *Threnody 1* builds to a climax. After *accompanied Cadenza 1*, the first half of the work is rounded off with a brief recall of thematic material from *Threnody 1*.

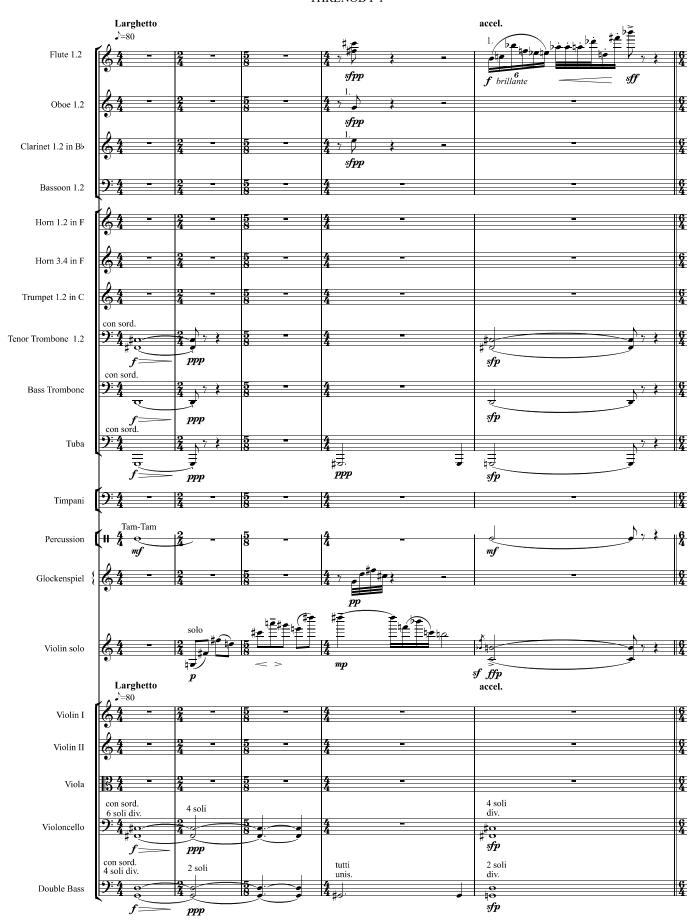
The second half of the concerto commences with a sardonic *Scherzino* in which brass instruments vie with the soloist. Much of this section is built from the last four notes of the row –a kind of musical 'tag'. *Accompanied Cadenza 2*, which follows, is scored for violin solo, oboe and timpani. *Threnody* 2, the final section, commences with a duo for violin and oboe in which the listener is taken through an at times dream-like, at other times dramatic landscape, until the opening of the work is reached with a restatement of the 12-note row. The rather sudden end to the first version of the concerto was replaced by this more extended ending.

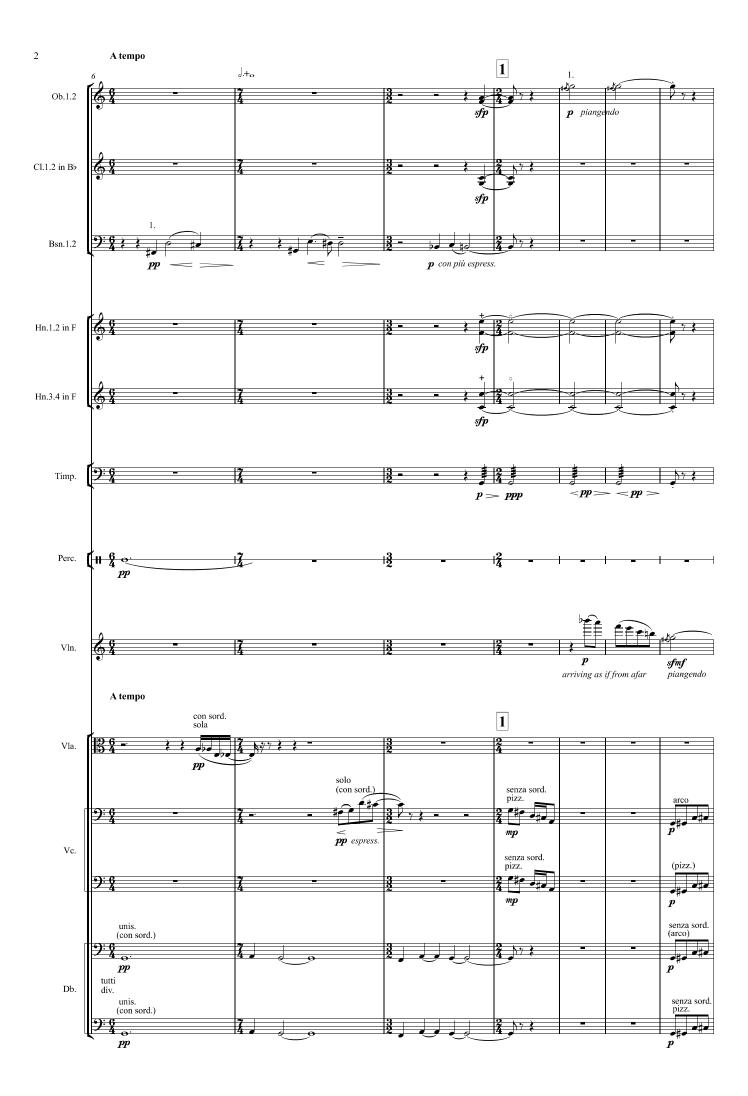
The concerto is noteworthy for its conciseness and sense of balance, so that the soloist always manages to sound above the orchestra however dense the texture.

VIOLIN CONCERTO

Opus 40 John Simon

1 THRENODY 1

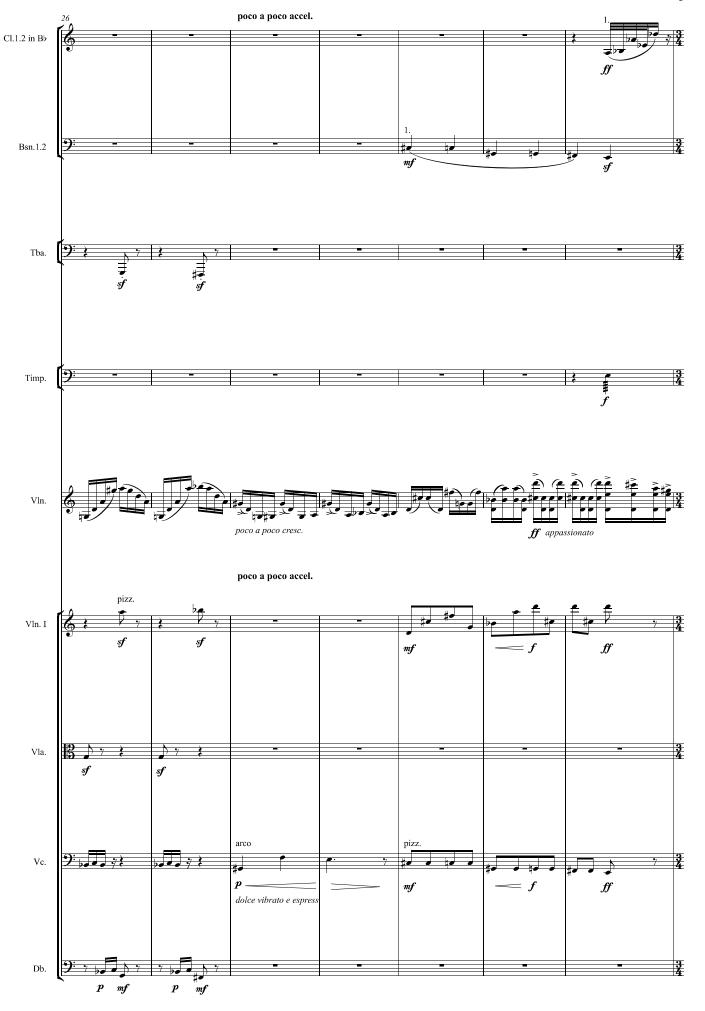


























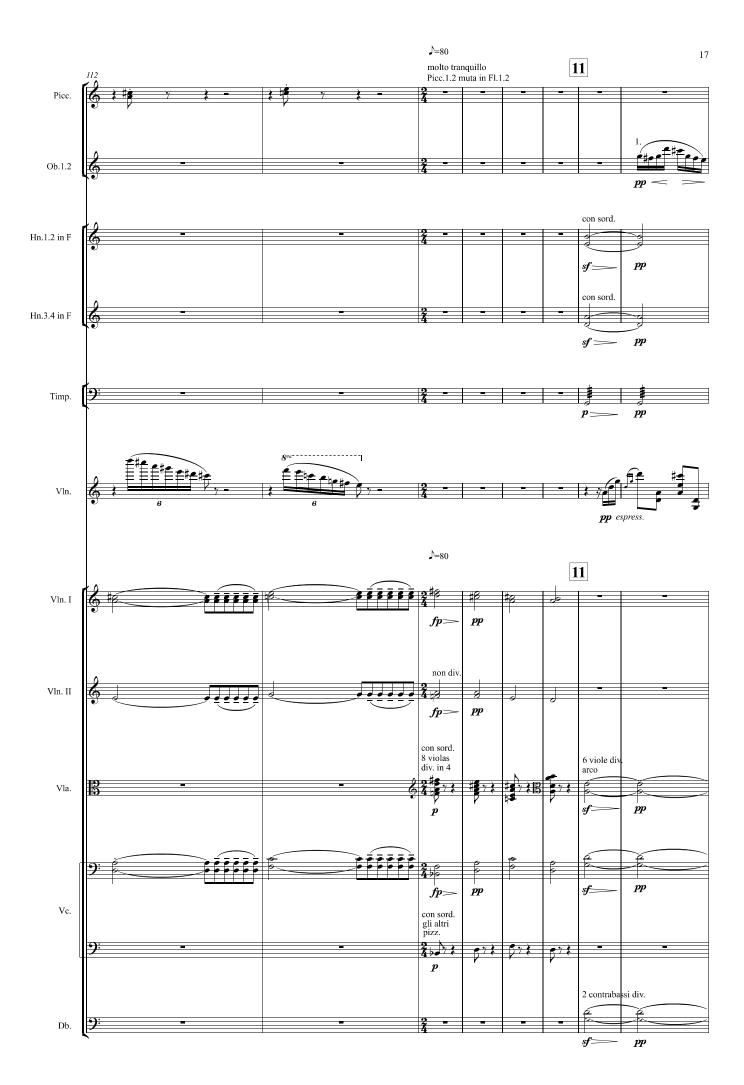


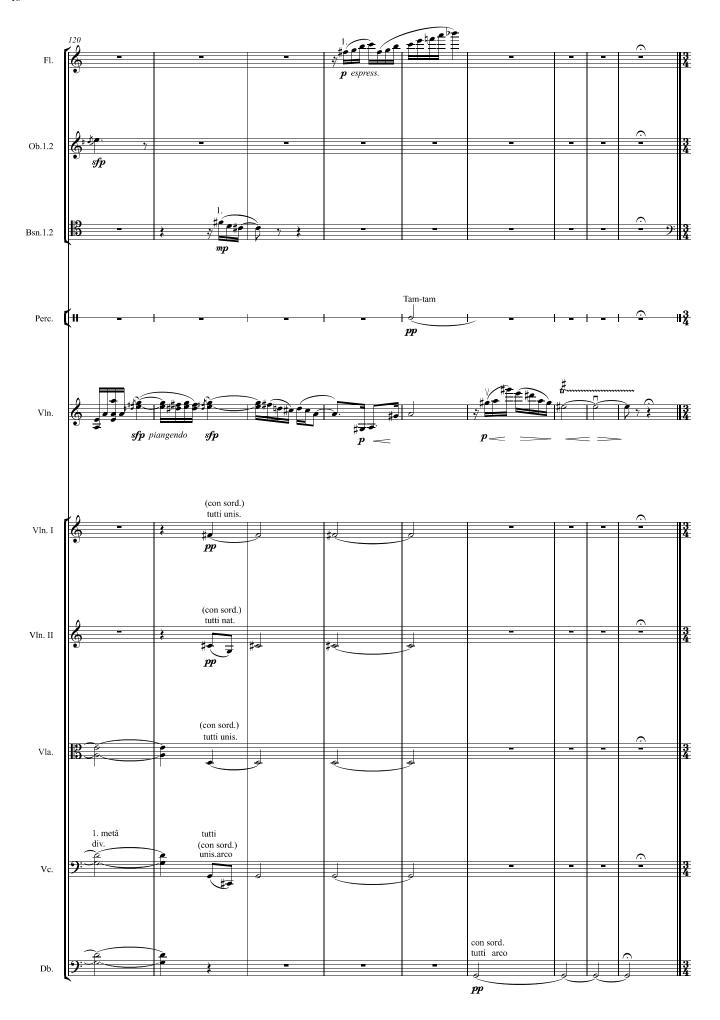












ACCOMPANIED CADENZA 1





