

Nils Henrik Asheim:

# MEDUSA



Nils Henrik Asheim (1960-):

**MEDUSA**  
(1991/99)

Oboe, violin, viola, cello

Durata 11 min.

Accidentals are valid for one bar, and only in the octave where written

♭ = 1/4 tone flat

♯ = 1/4 tone sharp

♯♯ = 3/4 tone sharp

when quarter-tone pitch affects a whole phrase, it is written like this



pont. = sul ponticello

molto pont. = very close to bridge, almost only overtone sound

legno = col legno battuto

tasto = sul tasto

+ = left-hand pizz.

Bartok- pizzicato

gettato, very fast like a short "rrr"

crush  
exaggerated bow pressure on string,  
producing "noisy" sound

fast tremolo

when trill and tremolo occur simultaneously,  
their speed should not be synchronized

any high pitch

light pressure of left-hand fingers,  
so that no definite pitch, also no harmonics, are produced

all 32-notes are played while the  
glissando passes through

"Medusa" was commissioned by Gregor Zubicky.

Version I, composed in 1991, was performed in Troltsalen, Bergen, November 5, 1995,  
by Steffen Blindheim, Lars Erik ter Jung, Nora Taksdal and Øyvind Gimse.

This version is now replaced by the present one, which was first performed in Konzerthaus Basel, April 11, 1999  
by Matthias Arter, Egidius Streiff, Mariana Doughty and Imke Frank .



# Medusa

Nils Henrik Asheim 1991/99

♩=66

Oboe *senza vib.*  
*pp*

Violin *ff*

Viola *ff*

Cello *ff*

Ob. *3*

Vn. *5*

Vla. *3*

Vlc. *3*

Ob. *5*  
*pp* *mf*

Vn. *p* *ff*

Vla. *5* *p* *ff* *6*

Vlc. *5* *p* *ff* *3*

7

Ob.

*p* *f*

Vn.

Vla.

Vlc.

9

Ob.

*pp*

Vn.

Vla.

Vlc. *pizz.* *arco* *pizz.* *arco*

11

Ob.

Vn.

Vla.

Vlc.

**A**

13 *fl.t.* *ord.* *ff* *p* *ff* *3* *fl.t.*

Vn. *ff* *p* *mf* *ff* *p sub.* *pont.* *ord.* *ff* *5*

Vla. *ff* *p* *12* *mf* *12* *ff* *p sub.* *pont.* *pizz.* *f* *5* *ff* *arco ord.* *3*

Vlc. *ff* *mf* *ff* *p sub.* *pont.* *ord.* *ff* *3* *3*

15 *ord.* *3* *ff* *ord.* *p*

Vn. *p* *f* *f* *pizz. 5* *arco* *ff* *p*

Vla. *p* *tr* *f* *ff* *3* *3* *p* *12*

Vlc. *pizz.* *f* *5* *f* *f* *pizz.* *f* *5* *arco* *ff* *tr*

17 *f* *3* *f*

Vn. *f* *p* *ff* *p* *pont.* *ord.* *p* *f*

Vla. *12* *f* *12* *12* *ff* *pizz.* *mf* *5* *arco* *p* *f*

Vlc. *f* *p* *ff* *p* *pont.* *ord.* *p* *f*

19 B

Ob. *p* sub. *f* *fl.* *ord.*

Vn. *ff* *p* sub. *pont.* *f* *ord.* *legno* *mp* *flautando*

Vla. *ff* *p* sub. *pont.* *f* *ord.* *p*

Vlc. *ff* *p* sub. *pont.* *f* *ord.* *p*

21

Ob. *f* *p*

Vn. *pp* *f* *ord.* *legno* *mp* *pp* *f* *ord.*

Vla. *f* *ord.* *flaut.* *3* *6* *5* *6* *f* *ord.*

Vlc. *f* *pp* *mp* *f* *ord.*

23

Ob. *p* *f* *f*

Vn. *p* *f* *legno* *p* *ord.* *f*

Vla. *p* *f* *ord.* *pont.* *ord.* *f*

Vlc. *p* *f* *pont.* *ord.* *f*

25 C

Ob. *f*

Vn. *p* *mf* *f* *pizz.* *arco* *f*

Vla. *p* *mf* *f* *pont.* *f* *f*

Vlc. *f* *pizz.* *pizz. arco* *f*

*tasto* *flaut.* *ord.* *ord.* *ord.*

27

Ob. *f* *ff* *f*

Vn. *ff* *f* *f* *pizz.* *arco* *f* *p*

Vla. *f* *pont.* *ord.* *f* *p*

Vlc. *f* *mf* *f* *p*

*pizz.* *pizz. arco* *pont.* *ord.*

29 D

Ob. *ff* *p* *con vib.*

Vn. *ff* *ff* *ff* *pont.* *p* *ff*

Vla. *ff* *p* *ff* *pont.* *p* *ff*

Vlc. *ff* *p* *ff* *pont.* *p*

31

Ob. *mf* *p* *mf*

Vn. *p* *ff* *ord.* *pont.* *p*

Vla. *p* *ff* *ord.* *pont.* *p*

Vlc. *p* *p* *tr*

33 *senza vib*

Ob. *p* *p* *f*

Vn. *ff* *ord.* *pont.* *ord.* *pont.* *fp* *f*

Vla. *p* *ff* *ord.* *pont.* *p* *cresc.*

Vlc. *p* *tr* *p* *cresc.* *3* *3* *3* *3*

**E** (Part II)

35

Ob. *p* *fl t* *ord.* *con vib.* *mp*

Vn. *ord.* *fp* *f* *fp* *f* *mp*

Vla. *ord.* *ff* *10* *10* *f* *10* *10*

Vlc. *ord.* *p* *f* *p* *f* *f* *p* *f*

37

Ob. *ff* *mp* *f*

Vn. *ff*

Vla. *ff* *sempre*

Vlc. *f p* *f p* *f p*

39

Ob. *fl.t.* *ord<sub>3</sub>* *senza vib* *p sub.* *f* *p* *multiphonic \*)*

Vn. *ff* *mf*

Vla. *f* *ff* *f*

Vlc. *f* *ff* *f*

41

Ob. *f* *p*

Vn. *f*

Vla. *f*

Vlc. *mf* *f*

43

fl.t. con vib. ord.

*ff* *p*

12

Vn. *ff* *mf* II III II gliss on III

Vla. *ff* *mf*

Vlc. *ff* *mf* II III 6 3

45

fl.t. ord.

*ff* *p* *mf* *ff* *p sub.* *ff* *f*

pont. ord. 5

Vn. *ff* *p* *mf* *ff* *p sub.* *ff*

Vla. *ff* *p* *mf* *ff* *p sub.* *f* *pizz.* *arco ord.* *ff*

Vlc. *ff* *mf* *ff* *p sub.* *ff* *ord.* *ff*

12 12 5 3 3

47

[F] fl.t.

*f* *p* *f*

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

Vn. *p* *f* *f* *ff* *p*

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

Vlc. *pizz.* *arco* *f* *f* *ff* *tr.*

7 6 6 7 5 5 3 3 12

49

Ob. *ord.* *f* *p* *ff* *mp* *ff*

Vn. *f* *p* *ff* *p* *ord.* *p* *f*

Vla. *f* *p* *ff* *pizz.* *mf* *arco* *p* *f*

Vlc. *f* *p* *ff* *p* *ord.* *p* *f*

*7* *3* *6* *3* *12* *12* *12* *5* *5* *2*

*pont.* *ord.* *pizz.* *arco* *pont.* *ord.*

51

Ob. *p* *mp* *p* *f* *p*

Vn. *ff* *p sub.* *p*

Vla. *ff* *p sub.* *p*

Vlc. *ff* *p sub.* *p*

*3* *3* *3* *6* *7* *5*

*ten. ----- stacc.*

*pont.* *pont.* *pont.* *ord.*

53 *senza vib.* **G**

Ob. *molto ff* *ff* *p* *mp*

Vn. *ord.* *f* *ppp* *p* *ord.* *f*

Vla. *ord.* *f* *ppp* *ord.* *f*

Vlc. *ord.* *f* *ppp* *ord.* *f*

*3* *3* *3* *3* *3*

*ord.* *pont.* *piu pont.* *ord.* *ord.* *ord.*

55

Ob. *ff* *ffp* *ff*

Vn. *ppp* *f* *ppp* *f* *ppp*

Vla. *ppp* *f* *ppp* *p* *f* *ppp*

Vlc. *ppp* *f* *ppp* *f* *ppp*

Annotations: *pont.*, *ord.*, *3*, *piu pont.*

57

Ob. *ff* *f* *p* *ff* *ff* *p*

Vn. *f* *ppp* *mf*

Vla. *mp* *f* *ppp*

Vlc. *f* *ppp* *p*

Annotations: *pont.*, *ord.*, *3*, *piu pont.*, *meno pont.*

59

Ob. *f* *f*

Vn. *p* *f* *pp* *f*

Vla. *pp* *p* *fp* *fp* *f* *pp*

Vlc. *p* *f* *f* *pp* *f*

Annotations: *fl.t.*, *pizz.*, *arco pont.*, *tr.*, *7*, *5*, *3*

61

Ob. *pp* *ff* *fl.t.*

Vn. *pont. pp* *f* *pizz* *arco pont. pp* *f*

Vla. *10* *10* *10* *crush p*

Vlc. *pont. pp* *f* *pizz.* *arco pont. pp* *f*

63

Ob. *multiphonic f* *p*

Vn. *ord.* *f* *III* *tasto IV* *ord.* *f* *tasto* *ff* *ff* *ppp*

Vla. *ff* *ff* *ff*

Vlc. *ord.* *ff* *ff*

*free choice of strings*

65

Ob. *f* *con vib* *p* *3* *3* *8va*

Vn. *ff* *loco*

Vla. *ord. ff* *tasto pp*

Vlc. *ff* *tasto mf*

67

Ob.

Vn.

Vla.

Vlc.

*mp*

*p*

⌋ (Part III)  
Meno mosso ♩=56

69

Ob.

Vn.

Vla.

Vlc.

*ppp*

*p*

*pizz.* 0 3 *arco*

*p*

71

Ob.

Vn.

Vla.

Vlc.

*p*

*ppp*

*pont* ----- *molto pont.*

*flautando*

*p*

*flautando*

*1/4 tone low*

*pp*

73

Ob.

Vn.

Vla.

Vlc.

*8va*

*pizz.* *arco*

*p*

*flaut*

*1/4 tone low*

*molto pont.*

*pp*

75

Ob.

Vn.

Vla.

Vlc.

*8va*

*p*

*pizz.* *arco*

*1/4 tone low*

*pp*

77

Ob.

Vn.

Vla.

Vlc.

*8va*

*p*

*pp*

*1/4 tone low*

*1/4 tone low*

*p*

K

79

Ob. *p*

Vn. *pp* *tasto* *8va*

Vla. *p* *short harmonic gliss.* II III IV *pp* *tasto* *sim.*

Vlc. III IV III 3 *pp* *tasto* *flautando* *mp*

81

Ob.

Vn. *flautando* *mp* 6

Vla.

Vlc. 5 5 5 3

83

Ob. *p* *senza vib.*

Vn. *mp* *f* *f* *ord.* *legno* *mp* 6 6 6

Vla. *molto cresc* *f* *f* *ord.* *flautando* *p* 6

Vlc. 3 3 6 5 *mp* *f* *f* *ord.* *p* 5

85

Ob. *f* *p* *con vib*

Vn. *pp* *f* *legno* *mp* *pp* *f*

Vla. *f* *ord.* *flaut.* *p* *mf* *f*

Vlc. *f* *pp* *III* *IV* *f*

87 [L]

Ob. *p* *f* *senza vib* *con vib.*

Vn. *p* *f* *legno* *p* *ord.* *f*

Vla. *p* *f* *pont.* *p* *ord.* *f*

Vlc. *p* *f* *pont.* *p* *ord.* *f*

89

Ob. *mf* *p*

Vn. *p* *8va* *very even gliss.* *p*

Vla. *p* *mf* *very even gliss.* *pp*

Vlc. *p* *mf*

91 M

Ob. *p* *f*

Vn. *p* *f*

Vla. *p*

Vlc. *pp* *tasto*

93 N

Ob. *pp*

Vn. *mf* *pp*

Vla. *mf* *mp* *1/4 tone low*

Vlc. *p* *tasto*

96

Ob.

Vn. *p*

Vla. *p* *sounding distant* *1/4 tone low*

Vlc. *poco cresc.*

A tempo ♩=66

99

Ob. *pp*

Vn.

Vla. *1/4 tone low*  
*3*  
*pizz.*  
*pp*

Vlc. *mp*

102

Ob.

Vn. *pizz.*  
*pp* *f*

Vla. *f*

Vlc. *pp*

105 (Part IV)

Ob. *f*

Vn. *arco* *f* *p* *pizz.* *arco* *f* *pizz.*

Vla. *f* *pizz.* *arco* *f* *pizz.* *5* *5* *5* *5* *mp*

Vlc. *p* *mf*

107

Ob. *f* *p*

Vn. *f* *pizz.* *arco* *f*

Vla. *pizz.* *f* *arco* *pizz.* *p*

Vlc. *mf*

109

Ob. *f* *p*

Vn. *f* *pizz.* *arco* *mp* *f*

Vla. *f* *p*

Vlc. *pp*

111

Ob. *mp*

Vn. *p* *mp*

Vla. *mp*

Vlc. *mf*

113

Ob. *p* *f* *P* 6 6

Vn. 5 5 5 *ff*

Vla. *f* *ff* pizz. 3 3

Vlc. 5 5 7 *f* 5 5

115

Ob. 3 6 6 6 7 5 3 6 ten. stacc. stacc. 6 ten.

Vn.

Vla. 3 3 3

Vlc. 5 5 5

117

Ob. 5 6 7 5 ten. stacc.

Vn.

Vla. 3 3 3

Vlc. 5 3

119

ten. -----> stacc.

Ob.

Vn.

Vla.

Vlc.

*f*

*arco*

*crush*

*ord.*

121

Ob.

Vn.

Vla.

Vlc.

*f*

*ff*

*crush*

*ord.*

*pizz.*

*arco*

*pont.*

*ord.*

*p*

*f*

*f*

*mf*

*f*

123

Ob.

Vn.

Vla.

Vlc.

*ff*

*ff*

*pizz.*

*arco*

*pont.*

*ord.*

*f*

*p*

*f*

*mf*

*f*

*p*

125

Ob. *ff* *f* *ff* *fast & wide gliss.*

Vn. *ff* *ff* *f*

Vla. *ff* *p* *f*

Vlc. *ff* *p* *f* *fast & wide gliss.*

127

Ob. *S*

Vn. *crush*

Vla.

Vlc. II IV II IV

129

Ob.

Vn.

Vla.

Vlc. II IV II IV

131

Ob.

Vn.

Vla.

Vlc.

II

IV

crush

crush

133

Ob.

Vn.

Vla.

Vlc.

II

IV

crush

ff

pizz.

3

5

135

Ob.

Vn.

Vla.

Vlc.

3

3

5

6

3

3

6

3

3

5

137

Ob. *3* *6*

Vn. *3* *5* *III* *IV* *5* *5* *5*  
*p* *ff* *p*

Vla. *5* *arco* *ff* *ff* *p*

Vlc. *5* *ff* *p* *5* *ff* *5* *arco* *III* *IV* *p*

139 **T** (Part V)

Ob. *f* *6* *con vib.* *tr* *6*

Vn. *3* *arco* *f* *p* *f*

Vla. *ffp*

Vlc. *II* *III* *III* *IV* *II* *III* *I* *II*

141

Ob. *f* *p*

Vn. *IV* *mf* *ff* *p*

Vla. *f* *f* *I* *II*

Vlc. *f* *p* *p*

143

Ob. *f* *p* *tr*

Vn. *p* *pont.*

Vla. *f* *f* *p* *p* *arco* *pizz.*

Vlc. *ff* *p*

145

Ob. *ff* *f*

Vn. *p*

Vla. *p*

Vlc. *f* *f* *p*

147

Ob. *ff*

Vn. *p* *ord. Δ* *p*

Vla. *fp* *fp* *fp*

Vlc. *fp* *pizz.* *fp*

149

Ob. *ff*

Vn. *p* *pont.* 7 *ord.* *fp*

Vla. *fp* *fp* *fp*

Vlc. *fp* *fp*

151

Ob.

Vn. *fp* *p* *pont.* 7

Vla. *fp*

Vlc. *fp*

153

Ob. *p* *mp*

Vn. *p*

Vla. *p* *molto pont.*

Vlc. *p* *pont.* *mp* *mf*

155

Ob. *mf* *p* *mp* *mf* *p* *mp* *mf*

Vn. *ord* *p* *mp* *mf* *p* *mp* *mf*

Vla. *p* *ord* *p* *mp* *mf*

Vlc. *mp* *mf* *mp* *mf*

157

Ob. *mp* *mf* *ff* *mp* *mf* *ff*

Vn. *p* *p* *ff* *ord* *mf* *p* *ff*

Vla. *pont.* *mp* *pont.* *mp* *ff*

Vlc. *mp* *mf* *ff* *III* *IV* *mp* *mf*

Don't rush!

159

Ob. *ff* *mp* *mf* *ff* *mp* *mf*

Vn. *ord.* *p* *ff* *ord.* *mp* *mf* *ff* *ord. tr.* *p*

Vla. *3* *mp* *3* *p* *f* *3* *mp* *mf* *pont.*

Vlc. *pont.* *mp* *p* *f* *mp* *III* *IV* *mp* *mf* *mp*

161

Ob. *p* *mf* *mp* *mf* *mp*

Vn. *ff* *mp* *mp* *mf* *mp*

Vla. *mp* *mp* *mf* *mp*

Vlc. *mp* *p*

ord. pont.

I. II. III. IV.

163

Ob. *mp* *mf* *p* *f*

Vn. *mp* *mf* *p* *f* *f*

Vla. *mp* *mf* *p* *f*

Vlc. *p* *f*

ord. pont. arco.

165

Ob. *p* *mp* *mf* *p* *mf*

Vn. *p* *mp* *mf* *p* *mf*

Vla. *p* *mp* *mf* *p* *mf*

Vlc. *p* *mp* *mf*

ord. pizz. pont.

167

Ob. *mp* *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mp* *mf* *p*

Vn. arco *mp* *mf* *p* *mf* *mp* *mf* *p* pont.

Vla. ord. *mp* *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mp* *mf* *p* pizz. arco pont.

Vlc. *mf* *p* *mf*

169

Ob. *mp*

Vn. *mp*

Vla. *mp*

Vlc. *p* *mp*

171

Ob. *pp*

Vn. legno *pp*

Vla. legno *pp*

Vlc. *pp* III IV III