

# ETUDES and DUO ETUDES

Etudes for solo cello and Duo Etudes for cello and piano

Knut Vaage 2017

to John Ehde

Etude nr 1 (duration 3'10")

Etude nr 2 (duration 3'10")

Etude nr 3 (duration 7'45")

Duo Etude nr 1 (duration 5')

Duo Etude nr 2 (duration 3'30")

Videos at [www.knutvaage.com](http://www.knutvaage.com) (media, research project: composer-performer)



Program for  
kunstnerisk  
utviklingsarbeid



#### ABOUT THE SCORE:

The score gives the performers freedom to improvise, and adjust the length of each Senza misura bar

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENT:

*Etudes and Duo Etudes* are included in our research project at the Grieg Academy; *(un)settling Sites and Styles*. It has been developed with John Ehde (my partner in this project) Special effects have been developed and combined in new ways as a part of the research project on working sessions during autumn 2017. The *Etudes and Duo Etudes* are performed on concerts and workshops, and included as material in different ways in the following new pieces: *Svev*, *Hybrid 1*, *Hybrid Experience*, *Hybridization* and *Hybrid Spectacle* premiered at concerts and festivals from 2017 to 2020 by John and different ensembles

#### PERFORMANCE:

It is possible to perform each *Etude* separately, or in collection by individual choice

TOTAL DURATION: c. 23 min.

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Scores available from NB noter, Nasjonalbiblioteket/National Library of Norway  
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Solo cello

(7th of Nov. 2017)

# Etude nr 1

metal-glass-wood

K. Vaage

**Senza misura**

1 c. 30 sec. 2 c. 30 sec. 3 c. 30 sec.

Sul tasto  
Bow Sul pont.  
Other info  
Cello

metal piece of bow by frog  
rhythmic strokes longside string

L.H. mute strings  
use strings I - IV ad lib.

even gliss on  
string w metal part

I  
L.H. pizz

ad lib. sul p - sul t molto

change from  
bow to glas  
cont. LH. pizz.

like before  
but with glass

L.H. mute strings  
use strings I - IV ad lib.

(mf)

(p)

(mf)

(L.H. simultaneously  
pizz. and  
gliss. w thumb)

4 c. 30 sec. 5 c. 30 sec. 6 c. 30 sec.

S.t.  
S.p.  
Info  
Vc.

ad lib. sul p - sul t molto

use bow, col legno batt, like bar 1

even gliss on  
string w metal part

change from  
glas to bow  
cont. LH. pizz.  
(like above)

I  
L.H. pizz

variate with I/II

L.H. mute strings  
use strings I - IV ad lib.

I  
L.H. pizz

ad lib. sul p - sul t molto

(p)

(mf)

Solo cello

(23rd of Aug. 2017)

# Etude nr 2

## Scratch

K. Vaage

**Senza misura**

① **c. 15 sec.**      ② **c. 60 sec.**      *cresc. e accel.*

Sul tasto: uneven transformation

Bow Sul pont.: hold bow horizontal with both hands, move very slow longwise strings

Other info: bow pressure (crush, light) → (crush, heavy)

Cello: crush (rhythm by tone appear/disappear unevenly) → use strings I - IV ad lib. → *sim. (espress ad lib.)*

Dynamic: *p* → *mf*

③ **c. 45 sec.**      ④ **c. 20 sec.**      ⑤ **c. 20 sec.**

S.t.: fast → very slow

S.p.: uneven transformation

Info: crush, slow bow, over-pressure (search for 8va basso)      hold bow horizontal with both hands

bow pressure: (crush, heavy) → (crush, light)

Vc.: (crush, heavy/slowly)      crush (rhythm by tone appear/disappear unevenly)

Dynamic: *f* → *8vb (mp)* → *p* → *n*

# Etude nr 3 bow variations

1 Senza misura c. 60 sec. 2 c. 45 sec. 3 c. 30 sec.

Sul tasto  
Bow Sul pont.  
Other info  
Cello

light pressure ord pressure high pressure circular movements (sul t. - sul p.)

air pitch mute IV

*p* *p-f* *pp*

4 c. 30 sec. 5 c. 20 sec. A c. 10 sec.

S.t.  
S.p.  
Info  
Vc.

flautando molto less pitch, air sound very light bow pressure

gradually to trem

*f* *pp*

mute all open IV open all

(mute all strings, then gradually open one by one, starting with IV open)

prepare bow 2

2 c. 30 sec. 3 c. 30 sec. 4 c. 45 sec. 5 c. 45 sec.

Bow 2  
Vc.

bow under strings (sul p.) quasi organ sound (open strings)

bow left side of bridge (open strings sim.) circular movements (like above)

bow right side of bridge

*p* *pp* *p*

(7th of Nov. 2017)

# Duo Etude nr 1

K. Vaage

**Senza misura**

c. 10 sec.                      c. 20 sec.                      c. 30 sec.                      c. 45 sec.                      c. 15 sec.

② mute string, hoarse overtone ad lib.    like above but L.H. rapidly ad lib.    ④ like above but change strings ad lib.

free bowing, very light pressure    ③ searching for overtones (sul p. ad lib.)

o transform into- - - - - o o o

**Cello**

*ppp*                      *(mp)*                      *pp*                      *f* (crush)

measured tremolo on soundboard  
tap w. both hands/fingertips  
(quasi 16 notes, M.M. ca. 132)

**Piano**

*p* dynamic ad lib, (but will not be loud)

R.H. sidwise intense trem. on sound board  
L.H. add crosswise trem. on medium strings  
(quasi 16 notes rhythm continues)

**A**

c. 30 sec.                      c. 30 sec.                      c. 45 sec.                      c. 30 sec.                      c. 30 sec.

② secco, sul t. (short brush, crush)    behind bridge punta d.a.    ③ ord. (still b.b.)    ④ transform by changing strings gradually to IV    ⑤ bow on body firmly up/down

variate by adding I then change between I/II    transform into body

**Vc.**

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

trem. on soundboard (like the beginning)    R.H. intense crosswise trem. on strings  
L.H. add pizz like above (with big space between)

gradually downwards both hands keep steady effects/rhythm    medium low trem. on strings

small break in trem to make pizz. on medium low string, pitch ad lib. (bell like - big space between each pizz.)    optional variate "bell" sound but keep space between    lowest palm cluster (like tam-tam)

(*Ad.*)

(24th of Nov. 2017)

# Duo Etude nr 2

## dropping

K. Vaage

prepare cello w e.g. a ruler between strings close to neck

**Senza misura**      c. 10 sec.      c. 15 sec.      c. 10 sec.      c. 15 sec.      c. 10 sec.      **A** c. 15 sec.

react to piano-effect:  
L.H. mute strings  
drop bow, col legno  
--> L.H. pizz ad lib

(react to piano-effect):  
ad lib dropbow col legno/arco  
L.H. pizz ad lib

on open strings:  
flip the ruler to make a "buzz"  
vary with L.H. mute strings:  
R.H. flat: strokes on strings/body

secco molto sempre  
make pitch change by  
movements from sul p--sul t

drop plastic ball on medium strings 3x  
(optional: use plastic bottle instead of ball)

drop big marble on medium strings 3x

drop super-ball on medium strings 3x

c. 10 sec.      c. 60 sec.      c. 30 sec.      c. 30 sec.      c. 30 sec.

improvise on given elements

col legno on body, fingerboard etc  
(super secco)

continue improvisation  
(react to piano pedal change)

on strings behind neck

drop balls ad lib.

improvise on given elements

marble roll on pegs

roll balls on string (one at a time)

trill all small balls  
to highest strings

*f* (*mp*)

*f* (*mp*)

*Red.*