

My second cello concerto was written during the run-up to the 2003 invasion of Iraq and was first performed exactly one week before the invasion itself. Although the piece plays without a break, its four movements have distinct characters, each with a different ensemble accompanying the solo cello. The first movement, in which the soloist is accompanied by the orchestra's wind and brass plus a snare drum, might have served as a sardonic accompaniment to the shoulders forward, elbows out swagger certain politicians seemed to affect as the invasion drew near. In the second, the slowest and gentlest, the strings are heard for the first time. The scherzo suggests a lively cabaret and has a quiet central trio. Only in the mostly slow last movement does the full orchestra take part. There is a short, fast coda.

This new edition of the score is dedicated to the memory of Rohan de Saram with an attempt being made to incorporate his practical suggestions and minor modifications, such as improved metronome markings.

David Ward
June 2025

Orchestra (transposing score)

2 Flutes for I, IV; both doubling Alto Flutes for II
2 Oboes for I, IV; second doubling Cor Anglais for II
1 Clarinet in B $\flat$ for I, III, IV
Bass Clarinet for I and II; doubles Clarinet 2 in B $\flat$ for IV
2 Bassoons for I, IV; Bassoon 1 only for II

2 Horns in F for I, IV; Horn 1 only for II
2 Trumpets in C for I, IV
B $\flat$ /F Tenor Trombone for I, III, IV: mute Harmon (III)

Timpani for IV only, but may be the same player as the Percussion in I, II, III
1 Percussion: Snare Drum (I), Suspended Cymbal [soft sticks] (II), 5 Temple Blocks (III)

Harp for II, III, IV
Electric Piano (Fender-Rhodes or Fender-Rhodes simulation) for II, III, IV

Strings: tutti for II, IV; one solo Double Bass for III

I Moderately fast	page 1
II Slow	page 16
III Scherzo and Trio	page 24
IV Slow (fast Coda)	page 34

Performance time: about 25 minutes

Full Score: **VAN 697** ISMN M-57011-697-3
Set of Orchestral Parts:
VAN 981 ISMN M-57011-981-3
Solo Cello Part: **VAN 670** ISMN M-57011-670-6

Piano Reduction (for rehearsal only):
VAN 690 ISMN M-57011-690-4

Vanderbeek & Imrie Ltd