

**Matthew Tommasini**

**FIDDLE STATES**

for violin duet

(2005)



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## **Program Note**

*Fiddle States* borrows from the rich tradition of American Appalachian and Bluegrass fiddling. Based partly on fiddle material, this piece plays with the many characteristics of fiddle tunes from driving rhythmic pulsation to introspective lyricism. The opening movement depicts the act of breathing using the idiomatic droning found in fiddle tunes. The second movement is a turbulent chase between the two violinists. The third movement is an introspective nocturne. In the final movement, a short set of variations on a Bluegrass tune gradually spin out longer and longer melodic patterns, building to a climax to conclude the work.

*Commissioned by Martha Walvoord.*

*Premiered April 15, 2005 at MacIntosh Theatre, Ann Arbor by Martha and Jennifer Walvoord.*

commissioned by Martha Walvoord  
for Martha and Jennifer Walvoord

# FIDDLE STATES

for violin duet  
**1. Breathing**

**Matthew Tommasini**  
**(2005)**

Duration: ca. 8 min.

♩ = ca. 120; *with intensity*

The musical score is written for two violins in 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of staves. The first system covers measures 1 through 7. The second system covers measures 8 through 16. The third system covers measures 17 through 24. The score includes various dynamics such as *fp*, *f*, *p*, and *ffp*, as well as performance instructions like *molto vib. poco a poco*. The piece features complex rhythmic patterns, including triplets and sixteenth notes, and uses a variety of bowing techniques indicated by slurs and accents. The key signature is one flat (B-flat).

N.B. Grace notes should be played quickly and ON the beat throughout the piece.

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25

Musical score for measures 25-31. The piece is in 4/4 time. Measures 25-26 are in 5/4 time. Measures 27-28 are in 5/4 time. Measures 29-31 are in 4/4 time. The score consists of two staves. The upper staff has dynamics *ffp*, *ffp*, *mp sub.*, and *mp*. The lower staff has dynamics *ffp*, *ffp*, *mp sub.*, and *mp*. There are various musical notations including slurs, accents, and dynamic hairpins.

32

Musical score for measures 32-39. The piece is in 4/4 time. Measures 32-33 are in 5/4 time. Measures 34-35 are in 5/4 time. Measures 36-39 are in 4/4 time. The score consists of two staves. The upper staff has dynamics *mp*, *mp*, *p sub.*, and *p*. The lower staff has dynamics *mp*, *mp*, *p sub.*, and *p*. There are various musical notations including slurs, accents, and dynamic hairpins. The word "flautando" is written above the upper staff in measures 36 and 37.

40

Musical score for measures 40-46. The piece is in 4/4 time. Measures 40-41 are in 5/4 time. Measures 42-43 are in 5/4 time. Measures 44-46 are in 4/4 time. The score consists of two staves. The upper staff has dynamics *p*, *mfp*, *mf*, and *ppp*. The lower staff has dynamics *p*, *mfp*, *mf*, and *ppp*. There are various musical notations including slurs, accents, and dynamic hairpins.

## 2. Chasing

♩ = 112-120; *brisk*

sul pont., at the frog, full bows

Violin 1

Violin 2

pizz. *ff* arco, sul pont., at the frog, full bows *ff*

3 *ff* poco a poco norm. norm. *mp*

6 *mf* *mf* *mp* norm.

9

(h)

Detailed description: This is a musical score for two violins, Violin 1 and Violin 2, in 4/4 time. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The tempo is marked as 112-120 beats per minute, with the instruction 'brisk'. The piece is titled '2. Chasing'. The score is divided into measures 1-3, 4-6, and 7-9. In measure 1, Violin 1 has a rest, while Violin 2 plays a pizzicato chord. From measure 2 onwards, both violins play a complex rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes, often beamed together. The dynamics are marked as fortissimo (ff) from measure 2 to 3, then gradually decrease through 'poco a poco norm.' to 'norm.' by measure 4. In measure 6, the dynamics are marked mezzo-forte (mf) for both instruments. In measure 9, there is a dynamic marking of mezzo-piano (mp) for Violin 1. The score includes various performance instructions such as 'sul pont.' (sul ponticello), 'at the frog', and 'full bows'. There are also hairpins and accents throughout the piece. A rehearsal mark '(h)' is present at the end of measure 9.

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12

*p sub.*

*f* *p sub.*

This system contains measures 12, 13, and 14. The top staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature. It features a complex rhythmic pattern of sixteenth notes with various articulations, including accents and slurs. The bottom staff continues this pattern. Dynamic markings include *p sub.* in measure 12, *f* in measure 13, and *p sub.* in measure 14.

15

*f* *fp* *f* *f* *fp* *f*

This system contains measures 15, 16, 17, and 18. The top staff shows a melodic line with slurs and accents, including a fermata in measure 16. The bottom staff provides a rhythmic accompaniment. Dynamic markings include *f* in measures 15, 17, and 18, and *fp* in measures 16 and 17.

19

*fp* *f* *f* *f*

This system contains measures 19, 20, and 21. The top staff continues the melodic line with slurs and accents. The bottom staff continues the rhythmic accompaniment. Dynamic markings include *fp* in measure 19 and *f* in measures 20 and 21.

22

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

*p sub.* *ff*

This system contains measures 22, 23, and 24. The top staff features a melodic line with slurs and accents. The bottom staff provides a rhythmic accompaniment. Dynamic markings include *ff* in measures 22 and 23, *f* in measure 24, and *p sub.* in measure 24. There is also a *p sub.* marking in the bottom staff at the beginning of measure 24 and a *ff* marking at the end of measure 24.

Musical score for measures 25-27. The system consists of two staves. Measure 25 features a melodic line with eighth-note patterns and a bass line with sustained notes. Measures 26 and 27 show a continuation of the melodic line with dynamic markings of *fp* and *f*. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, accents, and dynamic markings.

Musical score for measures 28-31. The system consists of two staves. Measure 28 begins with a melodic line and a bass line. Measures 29-31 continue the melodic development with dynamic markings of *f* and *fp*. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, accents, and dynamic markings.

Musical score for measures 32-35. The system consists of two staves. Measure 32 starts with a melodic line and a bass line. Measures 33-35 continue the melodic development with dynamic markings of *f* and *fp*. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, accents, and dynamic markings.

36 *fp* *ff* *ff*

sul pont., at the frog, full bows

39

42 *ppp* *ppp* *ff* *ff*

long pizz., norm.

pizz., norm.

### 3. Dreaming

♩ = ca. 52; *very expressive*

arco, con sord. *mp freely* (slow gliss.)  
arco, con sord., non vib. poco vib. non vib.  
*p ppp p ppp*

6 *p ppp* poco vib. non vib.  
*p ppp*

11 poco vib. non vib. poco vib.  
*p ppp p*

Più mosso ♩ = ca. 60; moving forward

Musical score for measures 17-21. The piece is in G major and 12/8 time. The tempo is marked 'Più mosso' with a quarter note equal to approximately 60 beats per minute, and the instruction 'moving forward'. The score consists of two staves. The upper staff features a melodic line with various articulations including accents, slurs, and vibrato markings ('molto vib.'). The lower staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and moving lines, also including vibrato markings. Dynamic markings include *pp*, *mf*, and *f*. Measure numbers 17, 18, 19, 20, and 21 are indicated at the beginning of their respective measures.

Tempo Primo ♩ = ca. 52

Musical score for measures 22-27. The tempo is marked 'Tempo Primo' with a quarter note equal to approximately 52 beats per minute. The score continues with two staves. The upper staff has a melodic line with accents and slurs. The lower staff has a harmonic accompaniment with chords and slurs. Dynamic markings include *f*, *p sub.*, *f*, *p*, and *ppp*. Vibrato markings include 'non vib.' and 'poco vib.'. Measure numbers 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, and 27 are indicated at the beginning of their respective measures.

Musical score for measures 28-32. The score continues with two staves. The upper staff has a melodic line with accents and slurs. The lower staff has a harmonic accompaniment with chords and slurs. Dynamic markings include *p*, *ppp*, and *ppp*. Vibrato markings include '(slow gliss.)', 'poco vib.', and 'non vib.'. A specific instruction 'poco vib. sul G' is present in measure 32. Measure numbers 28, 29, 30, 31, and 32 are indicated at the beginning of their respective measures.

### 4. Dancing

♩ = 112-120; *with energy*  
(senza sord.)

The musical score is written for two violins in 4/4 time, key of D major. It consists of four systems of staves. The first system (measures 1-2) shows Violin 1 with a forte (*f*) dynamic and a triplet of eighth notes. Violin 2 is silent. The second system (measures 3-6) features both violins with intricate sixteenth-note patterns and triplet markings. The third system (measures 7-9) continues the complex rhythmic patterns, with dynamic markings ranging from *f* to *p*. The fourth system (measures 10) concludes the passage with alternating *f* and *p* dynamics and triplet markings. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, accents, and dynamic hairpins.

Musical notation for measures 14-16. The system consists of two staves. Measure 14 starts with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The music features eighth-note patterns with slurs and accents. Measure 15 contains a triplet of eighth notes. Measure 16 continues the eighth-note patterns with slurs and accents.

Musical notation for measures 17-19. The system consists of two staves. Measure 17 continues the eighth-note patterns with slurs and accents. Measure 18 contains a triplet of eighth notes. Measure 19 continues the eighth-note patterns with slurs and accents.

Musical notation for measures 20-22. The system consists of two staves. Measure 20 features a triplet of eighth notes. Measure 21 includes dynamic markings *f* and *p*. Measure 22 includes dynamic markings *f* and *p sub.*

Musical notation for measures 23-25. The system consists of two staves. Measure 23 includes dynamic markings *f* and *p*. Measure 24 includes dynamic markings *f* and *p sub.*. Measure 25 includes dynamic markings *f* and *p*.

12

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27

*f* *p sub.* *ff*

30

33

36

*f p sub.* *poco a poco cresc.*

39

*ff*

42

Poco più mosso (♩ = ca. 126)

*pp*

*pp*

*accel.*

*poco a poco cresc.*

*poco a poco cresc.*

*ff*

47

*ff*

50

*p sub.*

*p sub.*

*ff*

*ff*

*ff*