

My Viola Don't Swing

for Viola Solo

Robert J. Frank
(2006)

www.robertfrankmusic.com

My Viola Don't Swing

for Viola Solo

Program Notes:

The title for this short, humorous work came from a well-intentioned but frustrated student during an improvisation class. Beginning with disjointed, unsuccessful attempts, the followed with moments of self-reflection, the music finally starts to "get its groove on" as it races towards the frantic finale, leaving the listener to determine: "do it" or "don't it" swing?

Performance Notes:

This work, with its changing time signatures, uses additive rhythms and should retain a consistent subdivision as much as is possible.

The opening and closing sections should be played as aggressively as possible. All "Snap Pizzicatos" (☿) should be played using the fingernail, and played very hard so that the string slaps the fingerboard.

Breaks at fermatas should be long and very dramatic. Tasteful use of theatrics is encouraged.

My Viola Don't Swing was selected for performance at the 2010 College Music Society National Conference, and was also the topic of a short analytical paper: "Metric Disability in Robert J. Frank's *My Viola Don't Swing*" by Dr. Evan Jones of Florida State University.

RJF

3-4 minutes duration
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My Viola Don't Swing...

Robert J. Frank

Solo Viola

Hard! ♩ = c. 120

fff

poco rit. -----

snap **G.P.** ♩ = c. 120 *near bridge* *sim.*

fffz *mp* **L.H.**

norm. *fffz* *(off)* *rapid port.* **G.P.** *fffz*

Andante

f *mf* **(III)**

accel. & cresc. - poco - a - poco ----- **Allegro** *molto rit.* -----

mp *f* *pp*

cadenza *mp* *f*

p *mp*

mp

The score is written for a solo viola in bass clef. It begins with a tempo of approximately 120 beats per minute and a dynamic of fortissimo (fff). The piece includes several changes in meter and tempo, such as a section marked 'poco rit.' (slightly ritardando) and another marked 'Allegro' (fast). Dynamics range from fortissimo (fff) to pianissimo (pp). Articulations include accents, slurs, and a 'snap' mark. Performance instructions include 'near bridge' and 'L.H.' (left hand). The score concludes with a 'cadenza' section and a final dynamic of mezzo-piano (mp).

rall. -----

f *p*

pp *mp* *f* *mf* 120

f *mf* *f*

mp *f* *ff* *sffz* snap

arco off string

f *quazi jazz feel*

mp *f*

sffz *ff* **Faster** *sim.*

accel. & cresc. - poco - a - poco

snap *sim.* (off)

Maestoso

fff *sffz* *fff* frantic, erratic tremolo/improvisation across given notes

As fast as possible

fff *sffz* snap