

SWANSONG

for solo viola

Performance Notes

i) The tempi and dynamics are very important in this work. It is permissible to play the opening SLOWER but not faster. The dynamics really must be as quiet or loud as stated. In the section marked ff/fff on page 4 the dynamic must be maintained and never allowed to drop off.

ii) In the opening section the C string, sounding throughout, should be as smooth as possible. The sound should be continuous and bow changes must be ad libitum and imperceptible.

iii) On page 4 the bowing becomes separated from the rest of the music. It is suggested that for rehearsal purposes the pitches and the bowing might be tackled separately at first, then put together.

iv) x3 at a repeat sign means play 3 times in all, similarly with other numbers.

v) A comma pause is equivalent to about half a second.

Duration : 10 minutes

Program Note

The title relates to the fact that violas seldom get the chance to sing - especially on their own. The music makes constant reference to The Silver Swan by Orlando Gibbons and finally comes right out and quotes it.

Andrew Ford, Sydney, NSW. September 1987.