

# Star Chamber

for solo violin



Lansing D. McLoskey

# Star Chamber

(solo violin)

*Star Chamber* was commissioned by internationally acclaimed violinist Linda Wang, who requested a short work in the "spirit of Paganini" that she could use for encores and auditions, albeit in a wholly contemporary context. The inspiration for the piece was the Star Chamber; a royal court in England that began in the Middle Ages where cases were heard without juries. That name stems from the courtroom's ceiling (which was painted with a single star), and it became infamous for its tyrannical judgements. In modern usage the term "star chamber" has become a general description for arbitrary tactics by a judge. Although far from arbitrary, the piece does juxtapose - and ultimately integrate - musical gestures that on the surface seem to be utter *non sequiturs*.

*Star Chamber* was awarded The Bohemians Composition Award.

Duration: Approx. 5 1/2 minutes



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Molto maestoso e agitato

*fff* (durations do not have to be exactly even) *ffpp* *molto tranquillo* 8"-9" *fff* *ffpp* c.3" 5"-6" *senza vibr.* *cantabile* *pp* *p* *molto rit.* *p* *A tempo* *mp* *mf* *fp* *sfz p* *accel.* *A tempo* *ffp* *sul pont* *ord.* *f* *p sub.* *accel.* *mf* *p sub.* *f* *mf* *f* *♩ = 69-76* *♩ = 88+*

Musical staff 1: Treble clef, key signature of one flat. The staff contains a melodic line with various dynamics including *ff* and *mf no cresc.*

Musical staff 2: Treble clef, key signature of one flat. The staff contains a melodic line with various dynamics including *ff*, *mf*, *f*, *ff*, *mp sub.*, *ff*, *pp sub.*, and *sim.*. Performance instructions include "off the string" and "ord.".

Musical staff 3: Treble clef, key signature of one flat. The staff contains a melodic line with various dynamics including *fff* and "ord.".

Musical staff 4: Treble clef, key signature of one flat. The staff contains a melodic line with various dynamics including *f* and *sim.*

Musical staff 5: Treble clef, key signature of one flat. The staff contains a melodic line with various dynamics including *mf*, *ff*, and *mp sub.*. Performance instructions include "6" and "6".

Musical staff 6: Treble clef, key signature of one flat. The staff contains a melodic line with various dynamics including *f* and "(mf sempre)". Performance instruction includes "As fast as possible".

Musical staff 7: Treble clef, key signature of one flat. The staff contains a melodic line with various dynamics including *f*, *sim.*, and "(mf)".

$\text{♩} = \pm 69$   
*arpeggio (freely) sim.*

*mp poco a poco cresc. ----- fff*

*ral. ----- wildly! furiously!*

*ff sempre*

*rit. ----- molto rit.*

*senza vibr. 8"-9"*

*pp*

*off the string and evenly!*

*6"-7"*

*ethereal, freely*

$\text{♩} = 56 - 60$

*mf pp sub. ----- p*

*espressivo*

*rit. -----*

*gradually slow down tremolo poco a poco rit. -----*

*senza vibr.*

*pizz.*

*mf ----- p*