

# 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* *senza vibr.* c.3" 5"-6"

*pp* *p* *cantabile* *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

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*, *f*, *mp sub.*, *ff*, *pp sub.*, and *sim.*. Performance instructions include *off the string*, *ord.*, and *molto sul pont*. A triplet of eighth notes is marked with a '3'.

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

Musical staff 4: Treble clef, key signature of one flat. The staff contains a melodic line with various dynamics including *f* and *sim.*. Performance instructions include *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 *mf*, *ff*, and *mp sub.*. A sixteenth-note figure is marked with a '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 instructions include *As fast as possible* and *(mf sempre)*.

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

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

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

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

*ff sempre*

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

*senza vibr.* 8"-9" *off the string and evenly!* 6"-7" *ethereal, freely*  $\text{♩} = 56 - 60$

*pp* *pp*

*espressivo*

*mf pp sub.* *p*

*rit. -----*

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

*senza vibr.* *pizz.* *mf* *p*