

Braiding (2018)

For viola and voice

Composer's note

According to some historical sources, braiding hair was common in various cultures and the oldest braid dates back 30.000 years. Having daily experience of braiding hair, I was wondering how this seemingly insignificant yet ritualistic action affects the brain and creates a very particular ways and patterns of organizing material. In this piece I am weaving lines of sound where both instrumental and vocal parts are closely intertwined throughout creating a unified texture. Since both singing and playing is performed by one musician, it might also be suggestive of a commonly experienced inner duality of perception where one part of our consciousness is acting whereas another one is observing and listening.

Performance notes

- Measures, rhythmic values and rests are arbitrary. All durations are relative to one another and can be performed with great flexibility. Give plenty of time for each gesture. Prolong or shorten some gestures depending on the inner flow of music felt at a particular moment.
- Transition between different places of bowing is always very smooth and gradual.
- Whenever the voice and the instrument come into unison, stay there for longer as though tuning the voice with the instrument.
- Section C has a meter that is recommended to follow loosely.
- In the voice part, vowels are pronounced as in the Italian language.

Approximate duration 8'

This piece was written in April 2018 during my residency at the Willapa Bay Artists Residency in Washington State.