

# Ermine

for solo violin

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Christopher Fisher-Lochhead



## **Ermine [2013]** for solo violin dedicated to Graeme Jennings

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*Spock*: "There's something disquieting about these creatures."

*McCoy*: "Don't tell me you've got a feeling."

*Spock*: "Don't be insulting, doctor. They remind me of lilies of the field. They toil not, neither do they spin, but they seem to eat a great deal. I see no practical use for them."

*McCoy*: "Does everything have to have a practical use for you? They're nice, soft, and furry, and they make a pleasant sound."

*Spock*: "So would an ermine violin, but I see no advantage in having one."

from "The Trouble With Tribbles" (*Star Trek*, Season 2, Episode 15)

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*Ermine* was premiered by Graeme Jennings at Northwestern University's Vail Chapel on March 6, 2013 as part of his residency at Northwestern's Institute for Contemporary Music.

A full recording of the premiere is available to stream at <http://www.cflmusic.com/works/ermine/>

## Notation



**bow staff:** this staff indicates the action of the bow. The bottom line corresponds to the tip, the top line corresponds to the frog, and the middle line corresponds to the bow's half-way point. Thus, a line which is moving up on the bow staff would indicate an up-bow and a line which is moving down would indicate a down-bow. The thickness of the line on the bow staff indicates **bow pressure**.



**fingerboard staff:** this staff corresponds to the full length of the strings from the nut (at bottom) to the bridge (at top). At any given moment, there will be two lines notated on the fingerboard staff. The top line indicates the bow's contact point on the strings, with the very top being extreme *sul pont*. The bottom line indicates the left hand's placement on the strings. It is unimportant which fingers or hand position are used as long as the hand's motion corresponds to the indicated shape.



**bowed/fingered strings:** which strings are bowed and fingered are indicated using roman numerals above the fingerboard staff.

Left-hand finger pressure is notated below the fingerboard staff.

- normal (non-harmonic) finger pressure.
- ∞ harmonic finger pressure.



**left-hand finger action:** grace note stems beneath the fingerboard staff indicate the action of the left-hand fingers. Specific fingers or intervals are unimportant.



**standard notation**

## Rhythm

All of the rhythmic information is given between the two staves. The indicated rhythms are to be interpreted as strict rational rhythms. No meter is given and the effort should be made to avoid any agogic stress.

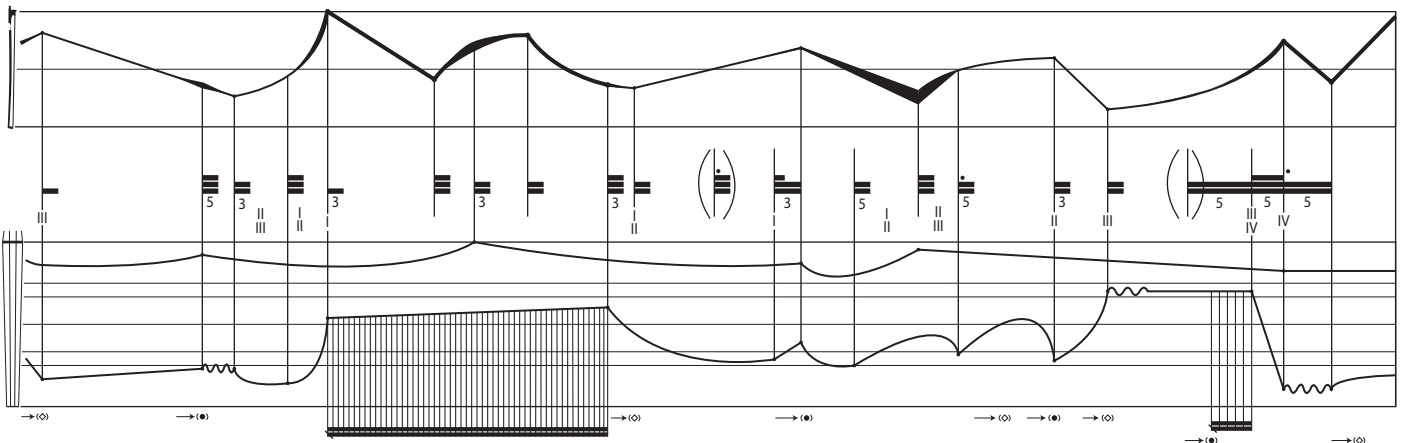
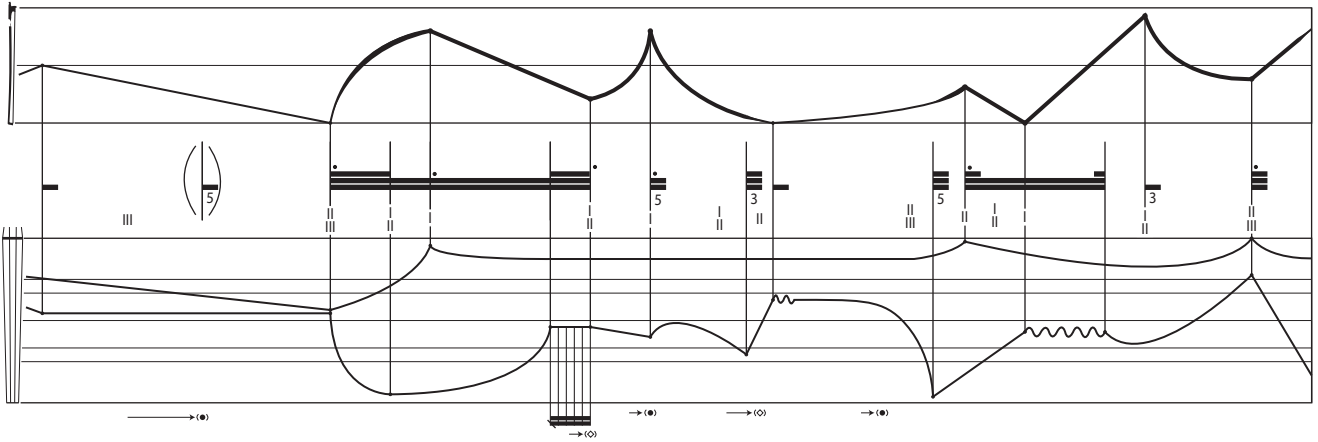
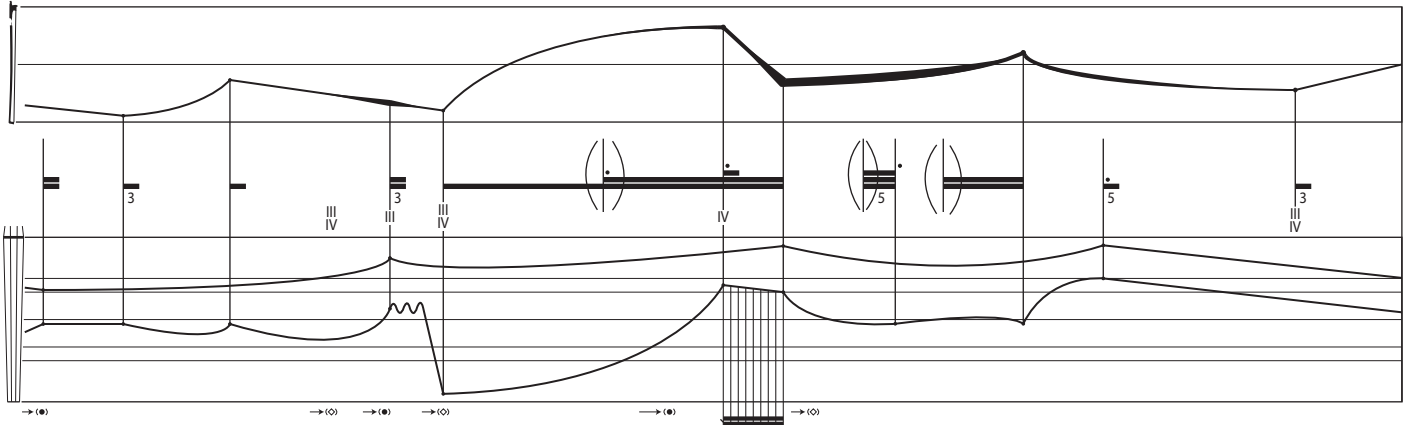
A click track is available for download at: <http://www.cflmusic.com/works/ermine/>



Musical score system 1, featuring a treble and bass clef staff. The treble staff contains a melodic line with various intervals and a large slur. The bass staff contains a complex rhythmic pattern with many notes. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 3, 4, and 5. A circled '3' is present in the treble staff. Below the staff, there are four pairs of arrows: the first pair is (●) → (○), the second is (○) → (○), the third is (●) → (○), and the fourth is (○) → (○).

Musical score system 2, featuring a treble and bass clef staff. The treble staff contains a melodic line with various intervals and a large slur. The bass staff contains a complex rhythmic pattern with many notes. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 3, 4, and 5. A circled '3' is present in the treble staff. Below the staff, there are three pairs of arrows: the first pair is (●) → (○), the second is (○) → (○), and the third is (●) → (○).

Musical score system 3, featuring a treble and bass clef staff. The treble staff contains a melodic line with various intervals and a large slur. The bass staff contains a complex rhythmic pattern with many notes. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 3, 4, and 5. A circled '3' is present in the treble staff. Below the staff, there are six pairs of arrows: the first pair is (●) → (○), the second is (○) → (○), the third is (●) → (○), the fourth is (○) → (○), the fifth is (●) → (○), and the sixth is (○) → (○).







A musical score for guitar. Above the staff is a large waveform diagram showing the amplitude of the sound over time. The staff contains a single melodic line with various chords and triplets. Fingering numbers (III, IV, 3, 5) are placed below the notes. The waveform shows a series of peaks and valleys, indicating the dynamics and phrasing of the piece.

A musical score for guitar. At the top left, there is a small waveform diagram. The main staff features a melodic line with a dotted line above it, and a bass line with triplets and chords. The instruction "molto sul tasto" is written above the staff. The dynamic marking "ppp" is at the beginning. Fingering numbers (3, 5, 3, 3, 3, 3, 3, 3) are shown below the notes. Diamond-shaped symbols are placed below the bass line.

A musical score for guitar. The staff shows a melodic line with a dotted line above it and a bass line with triplets and chords. Dynamic markings "mf" and "ppp" are present. Fingering numbers (3, 5, 3, 5, 3, 5, 3) are shown below the notes. Diamond-shaped symbols are placed below the bass line.



