

Tjälen går ur jorden
for violon solo

***Tjälen går ur jorden* (version 2)**

(Soil frost thawing)

Violin solo

Durata: ca 12 minutes

Performance Notes

Thick barlines

= start / end of a phrase, a gesture:



Small noteheads in a group of notes

= lighter, in the direction of the gesture and the gravitation of the phrase:



Bow contact point (in between molto sul ponticello - molto sul tasto, noise)

= the movements between this points are indicated on a special system in part A and C.

In the fast parts B and D, the bow movements between the contact points may follow the same principle: sul tasto on deep and low tones, sul ponticello on higher tones, passages with harmonics.

Commentary

As composer, I have rarely collaborated with a musician so intensively, in such detail and over such a vast period as with the violinist Karin Hellqvist.

It happened to coincide with the corona pandemic, which in the spring of 2020 hit the world during recurring long, uncertain periods of distress, death and shutdown of societies.

The title *Tjälen går ur jorden* (swedish: Soil frost thawing) refers to the slow process that is repeated every spring in soil zones close to the north and south poles of the globe, as well as at high altitudes. It is also reminiscent of global warming, which causes the earth's glaciers to melt at an accelerating, relentless rate.

Despite the violin solo's opening of extremely long sustained phrases in legatissimo that can stall in frozen fermata, and as Karin describes "...stillness and pauses can become part of a flow and not just a resting point", cracks soon appear between them. The flow, the restless movement comes from below as it begins to thaw. Another perspective of the piece's living space is the vertical play between darkness and light, where the deep fundamental tones meet their counterparts in high, bright harmonics. This also includes the perspective of evocation: the music appears and disappears. When during the rehearsal Karin tells me "the more I work on the piece, the directions between darkness - light (vertical), and the three-dimensional direction appearing - disappearing, feel more and more fundamental", then I know that we are together in this space of music. There, there is a constant process of birth, maturation, death and repetition, the search for which never reaches the goal but possibly approaches it.

Tjälen går ur jorden was composed for and in close collaboration with the violinist Karin Hellqvist who premiered its first version on 1 August 2021 at Vendsyssel Festival in Aalborg, Denmark. The second version was premiered on 14 March 2025 at the festival Svensk Musikkvår in Stockholm. The project was supported by the Swedish Arts Grants Committee.

Madeleine Isaksson

Tjälen går ur jorden

Madeleine Isaksson
2020

A (♩ = 54) **moltissimo legato, elastico**

fingerboard
bridge
tailpiece

Violin

molto sul tasto
norm.
sul pont.
molto sul tasto

1

p
pp
(pp)
pp
ppp
p
ppp
(frozen)

(♩ = 66 - 72)

IV
sep.
6
tr.

(ppp)
mf
fp
pp
norm.

2

più mosso, sempre legato (♩ = 54-60)
free bowing sul tasto, molto flaut.

pp

(♩ = 54) **sempre legato**

(♩ = 66 - 72)

5
salt. perpetuo

p
sfz
poco f
p
mf
p
ppp
p
pp
(frozen)

beats
beats
III
IV

(♩ = 54) **moltissimo legato**

(♩ = 72)

3
7

(pp)
mf
ppp
p
pp
p
pp
ppp
(frozen)
(in one bow)

I
II
II

Tjäljen går ur jorden

accel. — — — — — (♩ = 96)

(♩ = 72) *poco à poco legg.* — — — — — *molto legg.* — — — — — *norm.*

sub fp *mf* *pp* *f* *sub p*

rit. — — — — — (♩ = 72)

poco f *p* *mf* *p* *pp* *p* *pizz.* *arco jeté* *pizz.* *arco* *8va*

(♩ = 54) *moltissimo legato (da lontano)* *poco accel.* — — — — — *poco rit.* — — — — — *molto sul tasto*

(sord.) *ppp* *p* *pp* *poco f* *p* *pp*

(add finger) *trem.*

(full length) *III IV*

(♩ = 132 / ♩ = 66) *sul tasto mormorando*

ppp *pp*

B (♩ = 66) *legato poco rubato*

poco p *poco mf* *ppp* *mf* *pp* *molto leg.* *p* *mf* *p* *poco mf*

p *pp* *mf* *p* *p* *pp*

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Tjälén går ur jorden

molto sul tasto
(with noise)

a tempo (♩ = 72 / ♩ = 36)

poco f

p

mormorando

ppp

accel. (♩ = 96)

rit.

poco f

pp

incres. press. → *subtones* (♩) → *noise* → *sul tasto*

pppp

(f) *sub ppp*

p *f* *p*

C (♩ = 54) *da lontano (moltissimo legato)*

1 *pppp* *pp* *sub pp* *p*

molto flaut. *noise* *pp* *pizz.*

2 *sub ppp* *arco* *pp* *sub pp* *p* *sub ppp* *p* *sub ppp* *p* *(frozen)* (♩ = 72) *arco* *mf* *p* *mfp* *pizz.*

più mosso, sempre legato (♩ = 54-60)

3 *pp* *III* *IV* *p* *mfp* *pp* *ppp* *poco f* *p* *pizz.* *mf*

sub tones → *norm.*

(frozen)

a tempo (♩ = 54)

accel. — — rit. — — — —

poco rit. — — — — —

norm. pizz. — — — — — molto sul tasto

arco

sub *pp*

mp

p

pizz.

(♩ = 72)

4 arco

sub *pp*

p

pizz.

mf

p

poco mf

p

Coda (♩ = 132 / ♩ = 66) *poco rubato*

poco rit. — —

(pizz.)

pp

p

poco mf

a tempo

poco rit. — — —

a tempo

p

mf

p

mf

p

poco mf

p

p

rit. — — — — —

pp