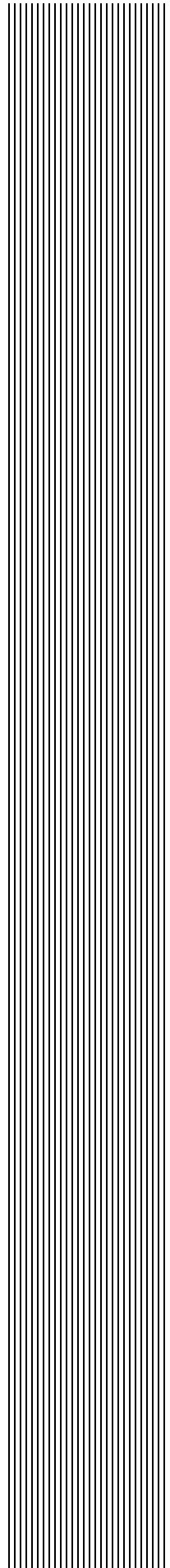


PEGGY POLIAS

*3 Witches*

(2007)

for three violas



PEGGY POLIAS

### ***3 Witches***

(2007)

for three violas

written for The Chronology Arts Project concert  
Thursday 13 December, 2007  
Sydney Conservatorium

#### PROGRAMME NOTE

When crafting this music I had popular Witch characters from three sources in mind:

“I’m Melting, Melting...”

“Double, Double, Toil and Trouble...”

“Mirror, Mirror, on the Wall...”

I also thought of the three mythical Graiae, who took turns sharing one eye and one tooth between them. I wanted the music to be weird, even slightly kooky, but not too obvious or Grotesque.

A single melody features in this piece; this is from my 2001 solo organ work *Lt/Lve*. It has a bubbly, cauldron-y kind of sound, and also an oriental folk feel to it. The melody is not sourced from folk music, it is completely invented. It is a mirror: the rhythm in the second half is a retrograde of the first half and the pitches are inverted. I have played with mirrors at different levels of the music from the overall structure down to small motifs. In the middle of the piece the music bounces between the original idea and its “reflection”.

Mirrors are sometimes a token of Truth, or Omniscience. The combination of witches with mirrors makes for power and deception. Witchery is often represented as covert and private, lonely even. I tried to reflect these qualities in the music.

Peggy Polias  
November 2007

# Three Witches

PEGGY POLIAS

♩ = 116  
I'm Melting, Melting...

Viola 1

Viola 2

Viola 3

*p*

*sim.*

7

1

2

3

*mp*

*sim.*

13

1

2

3

*mf*

*sim.*

Double, double,  
Toil and trouble...

19

1

2

3

*f*

*pp*

*pp*

*mp*

25

1 *mp*

2 *mp*

3 *mf*

31

1 *mp*

2 *f*

3

37

1 *mf*

2 *mp*

3 *mp*

43

1 *mf*

2 *mf*

3 *f*

49

1 *mp*

2 *mp*

3 *mp*

55 *Mirror, Mirror* like an echo of Vla. 2, 3  
*On the Wall...* *pizz.*

1 *f dim.* *p*

2 like an echo of Vla. 3 *pizz.* *f dim.* *p*

3 *f dim.* *p*

56 *meno mosso*  
*arco*

1 *mf* *arco*

2 *mf* *arco*

3 *mf* *arco*

62 *Tempo I* (as b.55) like an echo of Vla. 2, 3  
*pizz.*

1 *f dim.* *p*

2 like an echo of Vla. 3 *pizz.* *f dim.* *p*

3 *f dim.* *p*

## meno mosso

63

1 *mf* arco

2 *mf* arco

3 *mf* arco

## Tempo I (as b.55, 62)

69

1 *f dim.* *p*  
like an echo of Vla. 2, 3  
pizz.

2 *f dim.* *p*  
like an echo of Vla. 3  
pizz.

3 *f dim.* *p*  
pizz.

## meno mosso

70

1 *mf* arco

2 *mf* arco

3 *mf* arco

## ancora meno mosso

75

1 *p cresc.* *f dim.*  
pizz.  
like an echo of Vla. 1

2 *p cresc.* *f dim.*  
pizz.

3 *p cresc.*  
like an echo of Vla. 1, 2  
pizz.



94 **meno mosso**  
pizz.

1 *p cresc.* like an echo of Vla. 1 *f dim.*  
(pizz.)

2 *p cresc.* like an echo of Vla. 1, 2 *f dim.*  
pizz.

3 *p cresc.*

95

1 *p*

2 *p*

3 *f dim.* *p*

**Tempo I** (♩ = 116)

96

1 *mp*

2 *f* *mp* *f*

3 *mp*

102

1 *mp* *f* *mp*

2 *mp*

3 *mp* *f* *mp*

108

1 *f* arco

2 *pp* arco

3 *pp* arco

114

1 *mf*

2 *mf*

3 *mf*

120

1 *mp*

2 *mp*

3 *mp*

126

1 *p*

2 *p*

3 *p*