

# **"Viaggio Vita" - Life's Journey**

*for Violin, Trumpet and Piano*

*Commissioned by Valerie Stoelzel, in celebration of 20 years of marriage to Richard Stoelzel.*

by James M. Stephenson

## **Program Notes**

Another piece for Rich Stoelzel!! Are you kidding me??! I've been lucky to have composed many works for Rich, and am very grateful to him for that. But this one is different...

This piece was commissioned by his wife, Valerie, as a surprise gift for their 20<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary to be celebrated August 25, 2010. Val knew of my first "Trio Sonata" composed for Rich back in 2001, and wanted to use the same instrumentation for this new work.

With all of my commissions, I try to have a conversation with the "employer" at some point, so as to gain a little insight, and perhaps some inspiration for the new piece. Such was the case when I had a chance to chat with Val in Grand Rapids while visiting Rich's trumpet seminar earlier in the summer of 2010. When reflecting on their marriage of 20 years, she mentioned all of the "normal" things, of course: how/where they met, what it was like, starting a family, and then, well, "life" experiences, and how it all has led to where they are today. When she mentioned the word "life" - I had my piece. There is so much that goes into that one word - so many ups and downs, trials, rewards; having been married myself for 15 years, and with a family of my own, I am able to understand what truly goes into that one word (at least up to this point), and have tried to capture it in this piece, while dedicating it all to Rich and Val's marriage.

The first movement is entitled "Courtship". Many things are symbolized: when they first lay eyes on each other, flirtations, showing off, and a love theme [F]. It is an energetic 1<sup>st</sup> movement, with chase-scene type music to capture the essence of courtship. The love-theme is repeated in grand-style in unison toward the end of the movement.

"Romance" - movement 2 - is a very tender and simple tune. It represents when everything is "all right with the world" and of course, falling in love! The bass line repeats itself throughout, as a foundation upon which all solid relations must be built, regardless of what tensions might occur. A somewhat ambiguous final chord suggests that things are not always going to be so sunny...

Lastly, "Life" - movement 3 - immediately introduces realities that all relationships must endure if they are to survive. Opinions are expressed by both the violin and trumpet, in a rather argumentative way, with the piano constantly adding commentary. At times in the movement, things get downright dark, before finally, in the midst of all of the commentary, the ground bass from the 2<sup>nd</sup> movement returns, suggesting that it is actually the combined personalities and opinions from both persons in a marriage that make the relationship strong; and that a marriage is solid *because* of the unique traits that each person brings to it, and not because one wins out over the other.

Valerie Stoelzel suggested the title of "Journey" - I added the "Life" part, and also the Italian translation, because Val is, as she put it: "a nice, Italian girl."

Jim Stephenson, August, 2010

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Score

# "Viaggio vita" - Life's Journey

Trio #2 for Violin, Trumpet and Piano

## I. Courtship

James M. Stephenson

**Spirito** (♩ = c. 132)

The score is written for Violin (Vln.), Trumpet (Tpt.), and Piano (Pno.). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 2/4. The tempo is marked **Spirito** with a quarter note equal to approximately 132 beats per minute. The score is divided into three systems. The first system (measures 1-5) features a piano accompaniment starting with a *p* dynamic. The second system (measures 6-11) includes dynamics of *mf*, *p*, *fp*, *f*, and *mp*. The third system (measures 12-17) includes dynamics of *mf*, *p*, *f*, and *mf*. A circled letter **(A)** is placed above the first measure of the third system. The piano part consists of a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the right hand and a more complex bass line in the left hand.

Viaggio vita - Courtship

2

19

Vln.

Tpt.

Pno.

*f*

24

Vln.

Tpt.

Pno.

*f* *mf* *f* *pizz.* *f*

31

Vln.

Tpt.

Pno.

*pp* *p* *arco* *mf* *p* *f* *p*

38

Vln.

Tpt.

Pno.

Musical score for measures 38-43. The system includes Violin (Vln.), Trumpet (Tpt.), and Piano (Pno.) parts. The key signature is one sharp (F#). Measure 38 starts with a violin rest and a piano (p) dynamic. The trumpet plays a triplet of eighth notes. The piano has a triplet of eighth notes in the right hand and a steady eighth-note bass line. Measure 39 features a violin entry with a forte (f) dynamic. The trumpet has a rest, and the piano continues with its bass line. Measure 40 shows the violin playing a melodic line with a mezzo-forte (mf) dynamic. The trumpet has a rest, and the piano continues. Measure 41 has the violin playing a melodic line with a piano (p) dynamic. The trumpet has a rest, and the piano continues. Measure 42 has the violin playing a melodic line with a mezzo-forte (mf) dynamic. The trumpet has a rest, and the piano continues. Measure 43 has the violin playing a melodic line with a piano (p) dynamic. The trumpet has a rest, and the piano continues.

44

Vln.

Tpt.

Pno.

Musical score for measures 44-50. The system includes Violin (Vln.), Trumpet (Tpt.), and Piano (Pno.) parts. The key signature is one sharp (F#). Measure 44 has the violin playing a melodic line with a forte (f) dynamic. The trumpet has a rest, and the piano continues with its bass line. Measure 45 has the violin playing a melodic line with a forte (f) dynamic. The trumpet has a rest, and the piano continues. Measure 46 has the violin playing a melodic line with a piano (p) dynamic. The trumpet has a rest, and the piano continues. Measure 47 has the violin playing a melodic line with a mezzo-forte (mf) dynamic. The trumpet has a rest, and the piano continues. Measure 48 has the violin playing a melodic line with a mezzo-forte (mf) dynamic. The trumpet has a rest, and the piano continues. Measure 49 has the violin playing a melodic line with a mezzo-forte (mf) dynamic. The trumpet has a rest, and the piano continues. Measure 50 has the violin playing a melodic line with a mezzo-forte (mf) dynamic. The trumpet has a rest, and the piano continues.

51

Vln.

Tpt.

Pno.

Musical score for measures 51-56. The system includes Violin (Vln.), Trumpet (Tpt.), and Piano (Pno.) parts. The key signature is one sharp (F#). Measure 51 has the violin playing a melodic line with a forte (f) dynamic. The trumpet has a rest, and the piano continues with its bass line. Measure 52 has the violin playing a melodic line with a forte (f) dynamic. The trumpet has a rest, and the piano continues. Measure 53 has the violin playing a melodic line with a forte (f) dynamic. The trumpet has a rest, and the piano continues. Measure 54 has the violin playing a melodic line with a forte (f) dynamic. The trumpet has a rest, and the piano continues. Measure 55 has the violin playing a melodic line with a piano (p) dynamic. The trumpet has a rest, and the piano continues. Measure 56 has the violin playing a melodic line with a mezzo-forte (mf) dynamic. The trumpet has a rest, and the piano continues.

Viaggio vita - Courtship

58

Vln. *arco* *f*

Tpt. *mp*

Pno. *mf* *p* *mf*

65

Vln. *f*

Tpt. *mp* *mf* *f*

Pno. *f* *p*

72

Vln. *p*

Tpt. *ff*

Pno. *ff* *p*

ⓓ

78 E

Vln. *f*

Tpt. *f* *p*

Pno. *f* *ff* *p*

85

Vln. *ff*

Tpt. *f*

Pno. *f*

91

Vln. *f* *mp* *p*

Tpt. *mf* *p*

Pno. *p*

Viaggio vita - Courtship

6

99  $\text{\textcircled{F}}$

Vln.

Tpt.

Pno.

104

Vln.

Tpt.

Pno.

110  $\text{\textcircled{G}}$

Vln.

Tpt.

Pno.

115

Vln.

Tpt.

Pno.

120

Vln.

Tpt.

Pno.

125

Vln.

Tpt.

Pno.

(H)

131 *rit.* ① **meno mosso**

Vln. Tpt. Pno.

*mp* *mf* *p* *mf*

Detailed description: This system covers measures 131 to 140. It begins with a tempo change to 'meno mosso' and a 'rit.' (ritardando) marking. The Vln. part is mostly silent, with a few notes at the end of the system. The Tpt. part features a melodic line with dynamics *mp* and *mf*. The Pno. part has a rhythmic accompaniment with dynamics *p* and *mf*.

140

Vln. Tpt. Pno.

*mf* *p* *p* *p*

Detailed description: This system covers measures 140 to 148. The Vln. part has a melodic line with dynamics *mf*. The Tpt. part has a melodic line with dynamics *p*. The Pno. part has a rhythmic accompaniment with dynamics *p*.

149

Vln. Tpt. Pno.

*p* *mf* *mf* *mp*

Detailed description: This system covers measures 149 to 158. The Vln. part has a melodic line with dynamics *p* and *mp*. The Tpt. part has a melodic line with dynamics *mf* and *mp*. The Pno. part has a rhythmic accompaniment with dynamics *mf* and *mp*.

155

Vln. *p* *f*

Tpt. *f*

Pno. *ff*

Ⓚ Tempo Primo - spirito

161 *accel.*

Vln. *mf*

Tpt. *mf*

Pno. *mf*

168

Vln. *mf*

Tpt. *mf*

Pno. *mf*

Viaggio vita - Courtship

10

175 (L) pizz.

Vln. *mf* *f*

Tpt. *mf* *p* *mf*

Pno. *f* *mf* *p*

182 arco

Vln. *p* *f*

Tpt. *f* *p* *mf*

Pno. *f*

188 (M) arco

Vln. *mf* *f* *f*

Tpt. *p* *mf* *f*

Pno. *mf* *f*

193

Vln.

Tpt.

Pno.

*f*

198

Vln.

Tpt.

Pno.

*f*

*mf*

*p*

204 <sup>(N)</sup>

Vln.

Tpt.

Pno.

*p*

*p*

*mf*

*p*

*mp*

Viaggio vita - Courtship

12

209

Vln.

Tpt.

Pno.

*mf* *p* Open *mf*

*p* *mp*

*f* *mp* *p*

©

215

Vln.

Tpt.

Pno.

*f*

*mf* *f*

*f*

220

Vln.

Tpt.

Pno.

*mf* *p*

*f*

224

Vln. **P**

Tpt. *p* *f* support vln.

Pno. *ff*

232

Vln.

Tpt.

Pno.

240

Vln.

Tpt.

Pno.

246

Vln.

Tpt.

Pno.

253

Vln.

Tpt.

Pno.

*mf*

*f*

*p*

*mf*

*rit.*

263 *a tempo* (R)

Vln.

Tpt.

Pno.

*mf*

*p*

*mp*

*p*

270

Vln.

Tpt.

Pno.

mp

p

pp

Detailed description: This system covers measures 270 to 275. The Violin part starts with a half note G4, followed by a half note A4, and then rests. The Trumpet part has a half note G3, followed by a half note F3, and then rests. The Piano part features a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes in both hands, with a dynamic of *pp* starting at measure 274. A crescendo hairpin is present in the Violin and Trumpet parts.

276

Vln.

Tpt.

Pno.

pp

pp

Ⓢ

Detailed description: This system covers measures 276 to 281. The Violin part has a half note G4, followed by a half note A4, and then rests. The Trumpet part has a half note G3, followed by a half note F3, and then rests. The Piano part continues with the eighth-note accompaniment. A dynamic of *pp* is indicated for both Violin and Trumpet. A circled 'S' is placed above the Violin staff at measure 278. A crescendo hairpin is present in the Violin and Trumpet parts.

282

Vln.

Tpt.

Pno.

ppp

Detailed description: This system covers measures 282 to 287. The Violin part has a half note G4, followed by a half note A4, and then rests. The Trumpet part has a half note G3, followed by a half note F3, and then rests. The Piano part features a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes in both hands, with a dynamic of *ppp* starting at measure 286. A crescendo hairpin is present in the Piano part.



## II. Romance

Adagio  $\text{♩} = 76$

This musical score is for the second movement, "Romance," in Adagio tempo, with a metronome marking of quarter note = 76. The score is arranged for Violin, C Trumpet, Piano, Violin, Trumpet, and Piano. The key signature is one flat (B-flat major or D minor), and the time signature is 3/4. The score is divided into three systems, with measures 6 and 11 marked at the beginning of the second and third systems, respectively. The first system (measures 1-5) features the Violin and C Trumpet with dynamics *mp* and *p*, and the Piano with *p*. The second system (measures 6-10) features the Violin with *mf*, the Trumpet with *mp*, and the Piano with *mf*. A circled letter 'A' is placed above the Violin staff at the start of measure 9. The third system (measures 11-15) features the Violin with *f*, the Trumpet with *mp*, *p*, and *mf*, and the Piano with *mf*. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, ties, and dynamic markings.

16

Vln.

Tpt.

Pno.

sub.p

sub.p

sub.p

21

Vln.

Tpt.

Pno.

mf

f

ff

p

mf

f

ff

B

26

Vln.

Tpt.

Pno.

f

ff

mp

f

3

3

3

30

Vln.

Tpt.

Pno.

Dynamic markings: *f*, *mf*

This system contains measures 30 through 33. The Violin part features a melodic line with a long note in measure 31. The Trumpet part has a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. The Piano part consists of a complex accompaniment with many beamed sixteenth notes. Dynamic markings include *f* (forte) and *mf* (mezzo-forte).

34

Vln.

Tpt.

Pno.

Dynamic markings: *mf*, *mp*

This system contains measures 34 through 37. The Violin part continues with a melodic line. The Trumpet part has a more active line with eighth notes. The Piano part maintains its complex accompaniment. Dynamic markings include *mf* (mezzo-forte) and *mp* (mezzo-piano).

38 ©

Vln.

Tpt.

Pno.

Dynamic marking: *p*

This system contains measures 38 through 41. The Violin part has a melodic line. The Trumpet part has a simple line with long notes. The Piano part continues with its accompaniment. A dynamic marking of *p* (piano) is present at the end of the system.

42

Vln. *pp*

Tpt. *pp*

Pno.

47

Vln.

Tpt.

Pno. *poco* *mp*

51

Vln. *f*

Tpt.

Pno. *pp* *rit.*

Tempestuo (♩ = c. 144)

The musical score is arranged in three systems. The first system (measures 1-6) features a Violin part with a melody of eighth notes and triplets, starting with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The C trumpet and Piano parts are mostly silent, with the piano providing harmonic support through chords and bass lines. The second system (measures 7-13) continues the violin melody and piano accompaniment. The third system (measures 14-19) introduces a new texture: the violin continues with triplets, while the trumpet plays a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes marked *st. mute* and *p staccato*. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and bass notes, with a *p* dynamic marking at measure 14. A circled letter 'A' is placed above the first measure of the third system.

22

Vln.

Tpt.

Pno.

mf

p

mf

p

(b)

(b)

Detailed description: This system covers measures 22 to 28. The Violin part is mostly silent. The Trumpet part plays a rhythmic eighth-note pattern, starting with a mezzo-forte (mf) dynamic and becoming piano (p) after measure 24. The Piano part features a complex accompaniment with chords and moving lines in both hands, also starting with mf and becoming p after measure 24. There are two flats (b) in the piano part in measures 26 and 28.

29

Vln.

Tpt.

Pno.

f

f

Detailed description: This system covers measures 29 to 34. The Violin part is silent. The Trumpet part plays a rhythmic eighth-note pattern, starting with a forte (f) dynamic. The Piano part features a complex accompaniment with chords and moving lines in both hands, also starting with a forte (f) dynamic.

35 (B)

Vln.

Tpt.

Pno.

f

p

p

p

mf

f

p

f

p

mf

mf

mf

Detailed description: This system covers measures 35 to 40. The Violin part plays a melodic line with triplets, starting with a forte (f) dynamic. The Trumpet part plays a rhythmic eighth-note pattern, starting with a piano (p) dynamic and becoming mezzo-forte (mf) after measure 38. The Piano part features a complex accompaniment with chords and moving lines in both hands, alternating between forte (f) and piano (p) dynamics. There are three flats (b) in the piano part in measures 35, 37, and 39.

41

Vln.

Tpt.

Pno.

41-46

*p*

*f*

*p*

3 3 3 3 3 3

Detailed description: This system contains measures 41 through 46. The Violin part (Vln.) features a melodic line with triplets and slurs, starting with a dynamic of *p*. The Trumpet part (Tpt.) has a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes. The Piano part (Pno.) is split into two staves, with the right hand playing chords and the left hand playing a bass line. Dynamics range from *f* to *p*. Measure 45 includes a circled copyright symbol (©).

47

Vln.

Tpt.

Pno.

47-51

*f*

*f*

*f*

Detailed description: This system contains measures 47 through 51. The Violin part (Vln.) has a melodic line with slurs and a dynamic of *f*. The Trumpet part (Tpt.) has a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes with a dynamic of *f*. The Piano part (Pno.) is split into two staves, with the right hand playing chords and the left hand playing a bass line. Dynamics range from *f* to *p*.

52

Vln.

Tpt.

Pno.

52-56

©

*p*

*f*

*p*

Detailed description: This system contains measures 52 through 56. The Violin part (Vln.) has a melodic line with slurs and a dynamic of *f*. The Trumpet part (Tpt.) has a melodic line with slurs and a dynamic of *p*. The Piano part (Pno.) is split into two staves, with the right hand playing chords and the left hand playing a bass line. Dynamics range from *p* to *f*. Measure 52 includes a circled copyright symbol (©).

59

Vln.

Tpt.

Pno.

*p*

*f*

*p*

66 <sup>ⓓ</sup>

Vln.

Tpt.

Pno.

*mf*

*p*

3

3

74

Vln.

Tpt.

Pno.

*p*

*p*

*f*

*mf*

*f*

80 (E)

Vln.  
Tpt.  
Pno.

*f*

Detailed description: This system covers measures 80 to 83. The Vln. part starts with a sixteenth-note pattern in 3/4 time, then changes to 2/4 time with a sustained note. The Tpt. part has a melodic line in 3/4 time, then 2/4 time with a sustained note. The Pno. part features a rhythmic accompaniment in 3/4 time, then 2/4 time with a sustained note. A dynamic marking of *f* is present in measure 82. A circled 'E' is located above measure 82.

84

Vln.  
Tpt.  
Pno.

*p*

Detailed description: This system covers measures 84 to 88. The Vln. part continues with a sixteenth-note pattern. The Tpt. part has a melodic line starting in measure 84 with a dynamic marking of *p*, then remains silent. The Pno. part features a rhythmic accompaniment with a sustained note in the right hand. A dynamic marking of *p* is present in measure 84.

89

Vln.  
Tpt.  
Pno.

Detailed description: This system covers measures 89 to 93. The Vln. part continues with a sixteenth-note pattern. The Tpt. part remains silent. The Pno. part features a rhythmic accompaniment with a sustained note in the right hand.

94

Vln.

Tpt.

Pno.

*p*

*ff*

*fp*

(F)

99

Vln.

Tpt.

Pno.

*ff*

*fp*

*f*

104

Vln.

Tpt.

Pno.

*f*

*f*

3

110

Vln.

Tpt.

Pno.

*p*

*p*

Detailed description: This system covers measures 110 to 115. The Violin part is mostly silent. The Trumpet part plays a rhythmic eighth-note pattern in measures 110-111, then rests. The Piano part features a bass line with eighth-note patterns and chords, starting with a piano (*p*) dynamic. A hairpin crescendo is shown over the piano part in measures 110-111.

116 ©

Vln.

Tpt.

Pno.

*pp*

*p*

Detailed description: This system covers measures 116 to 123. The Violin part has a melodic line with triplets and slurs. The Trumpet part plays eighth-note patterns in measures 116-117, then rests. The Piano part has a bass line with chords and rests, starting with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The Violin part starts with a pianissimo (*pp*) dynamic in measure 116.

124

Vln.

Tpt.

Pno.

*pp*

*mp*

Detailed description: This system covers measures 124 to 129. The Violin part has a melodic line with triplets and slurs. The Trumpet part plays eighth-note patterns in measures 124-125, then rests. The Piano part has a bass line with chords and rests, starting with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The Violin part starts with a pianissimo (*pp*) dynamic in measure 124. The Trumpet part has a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic in measure 125.



148

Vln.

Tpt.

Pno.

153

Vln.

Tpt.

Pno.

159

Vln.

Tpt.

Pno.

165 (J)

Vln. *p* *pp*

Tpt. *p*<sup>3</sup> *pp*

Pno. *p* *pp*

Detailed description: This system covers measures 165 to 172. The Violin part starts with a sixteenth-note pattern, then rests, and then plays a melodic line with dynamics *p* and *pp*. The Trumpet part has a triplet of eighth notes in measure 166, followed by rests and a melodic line starting in measure 171 with dynamics *p* and *pp*. The Piano part features a bass line with chords and a treble line with chords, with dynamics *p* and *pp*.

173

Vln. *pp*

Tpt. Cup Mute *pp*

Pno. *pp*

Detailed description: This system covers measures 173 to 179. The Violin part plays a continuous sixteenth-note pattern with dynamics *pp*. The Trumpet part is silent until measure 173, then plays a melodic line with a cup mute and dynamics *pp*. The Piano part continues with a bass line and treble line, with dynamics *pp*.

180

Vln. *pp*

Tpt. *pp*

Pno. *pp*

Detailed description: This system covers measures 180 to 186. The Violin part continues with a sixteenth-note pattern and dynamics *pp*. The Trumpet part plays a melodic line with dynamics *pp*. The Piano part continues with a bass line and treble line, with dynamics *pp*.

186 (K)

Vln.

Tpt.

Pno.

192

Vln.

Tpt.

Pno.

199

Vln.

Tpt.

Pno.

206 L

Vln. *p* *mp* *mf*

Tpt. *p* *mp*

Pno. *mp*

212

Vln. *f* *ff*

Tpt. *mf* *f* *ff*

Pno. *mf* *f* *ff*

217

Vln.

Tpt.

Pno.

222

Vln.

Tpt.

Pno.

Open

*f*

*f*

228

**(M) 'Stesso, Broadly** ( $\text{♩} = \text{c. } 72$ )

Vln.

Tpt.

Pno.

*f*

*ff*

V

231

Vln.

Tpt.

Pno.

*mp*

235

Vln. (N)

Tpt.

Pno.

mp

mf

238

Vln.

Tpt.

Pno.

241

Vln.

Tpt.

Pno.

244 <sup>⊙</sup>

Vln. *f*

Tpt. *mp* *mp* *mf*

Pno. *f*

247

Vln.

Tpt. *mf* *mf*

Pno.

250 <sup>Ⓟ</sup>

Vln.

Tpt. *p* *mf* *ff*

Pno.

253

Vln.

Tpt.

Pno.

*fp*

*f*

256

Vln.

Tpt.

Pno.

*mf*

*mf*

*mp*

260

Vln.

Tpt.

Pno.

*Rall...*

*mp*  
*st. mute*

*p*

*p*

*3*

*3*

© Slowly, religioso

264

Vln.

Tpt.

Pno.

270

*Molto rit.*

Ⓜ **Primo Tempo** (♩ = c. 144)

Vln.

Tpt.

Pno.

275

Vln.

Tpt.

Pno.

280

Vln. *f* *ff* S

Tpt. *mp* *f*

Pno. *f* *ff*

285

Vln.

Tpt.

Pno.

290

Vln.

Tpt.

Pno.



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