

WORK FOR FIVE-STRING ELECTRONIC VIOLIN AND TAPE  
(TORN EDGES)

Stacy Borden

A Thesis

Submitted to the Graduate College of Bowling Green  
State University in partial fulfillment of  
the requirements for the degree of

MASTER OF MUSIC

August 2008

Committee:

Andrea Reinkemeyer, Advisor

Mikel Kuehn

## ABSTRACT

Andrea Reinkemeyer, Advisor

*Torn Edges, a Work for Five-String Electronic Violin and Tape*, was written in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Music in Composition at Bowling Green State University. This thesis composition is a ten-minute work that combines the sonic possibilities of pre-recorded sound objects and the timbre of a live electronic violin. *Torn Edges* is meant to sonically represent the tearing apart of many different elements such as metal, paper and time and the resulting frayed edges that occur when such elements are destroyed.


This action can be heard in both the violin and tape part throughout the course of this work. In the violin part, the score calls for the performer to play many long glissandos and sustained notes. When combined with a guitar effects pedal, the resulting sound mimics the sound of notes being torn in half. In addition, the use of distortion via a guitar effects pedal creates a coherent sonic landscape with the tape. The tape part consists of recorded samples of metallic objects, violins, cellos and computer generated noises that are then manipulated using techniques such as convolution and granular synthesis.

The linear motion of this work helps to give *Torn Edges* its form. In the first section, both the violin and tape create a long crescendo that erupts into many tiny pieces of falling metal. Gradually extending the texture of the piece and creating a sense of tension until the above-mentioned climax creates this crescendo. From this point in the piece, the violin takes off into a fast and furious solo that eventually slows down and re-introduces the material heard in the beginning of the piece. In the closing section of this work, both violin and tape create a sense of hesitation and confusion by the miss matching and miss timing of bits and pieces of material heard in the opening section of this work.

*Torn Edges*, was realized using Finale, Logic Pro 7, DSP Quattro, SoundHack, Kontakt and various GRM and Waves plug-ins at the Electro-acoustic studios at Bowling Green State University and the composer's personal home studio.

## PERFORMANCE NOTES

The following lines are used to notate the tape part.

 Represents Large Crashes.

 Atmospheric sounds.

- - - - - Swirl FX Violins.

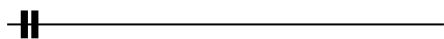
 Distorted Double Bass.

\_\_\_\_\_ Reverse Metallic Scrapes.

 Reverse Room Reverb.

*oooooooooooo* Atmospheric Violin.

 Wild FX Violins.



All lines appear on a single line bass drum staff.

# Torn Edges

a Work for Five-String Electronic Violin and Tape

Stacy Borden

Expressive ♩ = 60  
*sul tasto*

Violin

delicate, ghostly  
*p* *mf* *n* *f* *p* *mp*

Tape

Track 1 Begins (silent until 00:20)

00:00 00:20

7 freely *sul A* *ord.*

*f* *ff* *p* *f* *p*

12 *sul pont.*  
3  
with determination

*f* *p* *ff* *f*

01:15

19 *sul pont.*  
slowly increase bow pressure to hard scrape

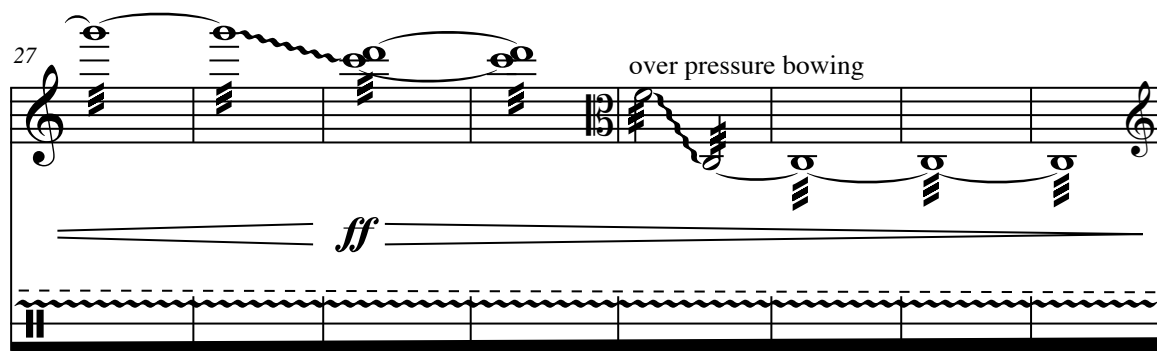
*f* *p*

01:18

27

over pressure bowing

*ff*



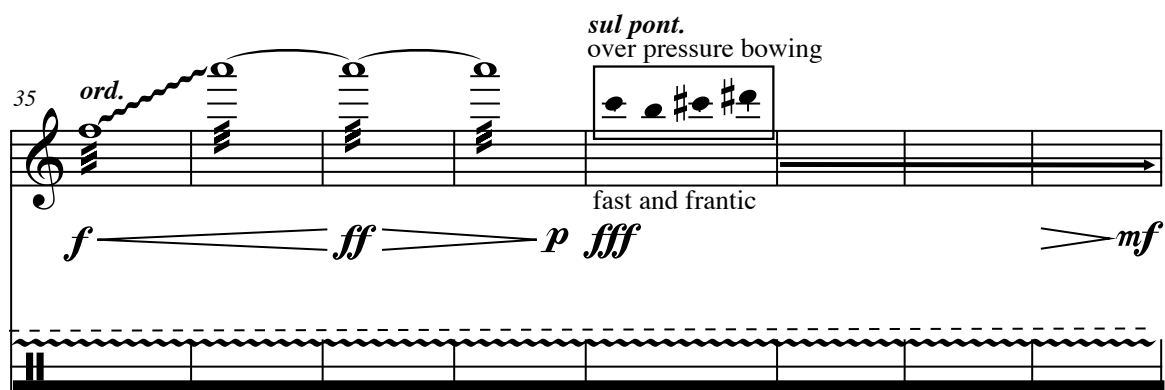
35

*ord.*

*sul pont.*  
over pressure bowing

fast and frantic

*f* *ff* *p* *fff* *mf*

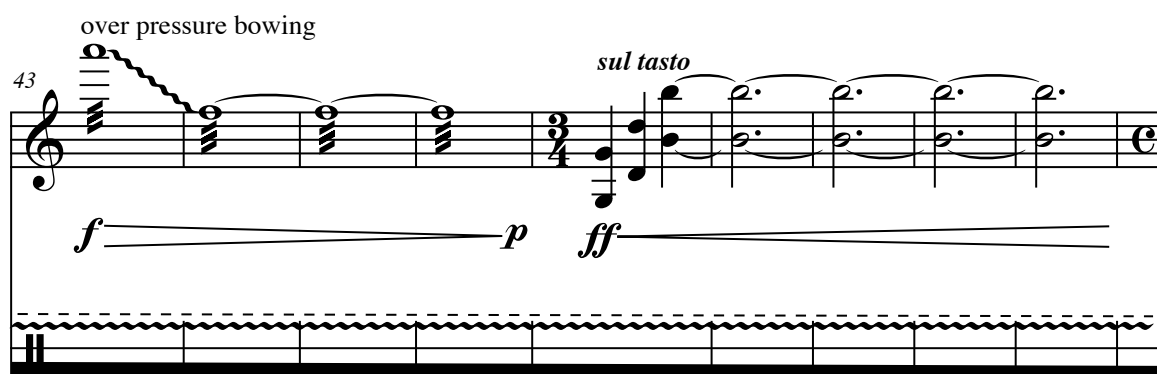


43

over pressure bowing

*sul tasto*

*f* *p* *ff*

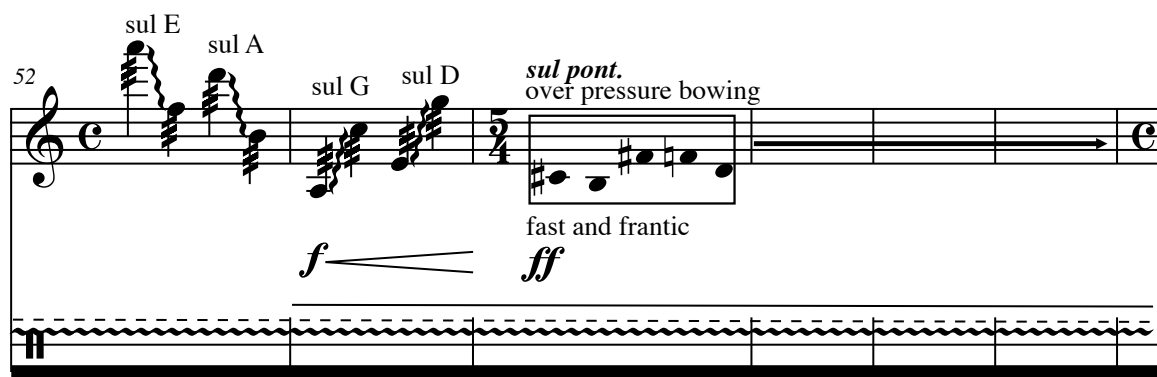


52

*sul E* *sul A* *sul G* *sul D* *sul pont.*  
over pressure bowing

fast and frantic

*f* *ff*



# Torn Edges

3

58 *ord.*

*f* ————— *ff* *f* —————

03:59

61 *sul pont.*  
over pressure bowing

*ff* *f* ————— *ff* *f* ————— *p*

fast and frantic

04:04

68 *ord.*

*p* —————

04:38

72

*f* —————

# Torn Edges

4

73

*fff*

sul A

Coin Crash

05:02 05:07

76

*ff*

G.P.

*ff*

arco sul A

sul G

Track 1 Ends

05:08

G.P.

G.P.

"Guitar Solo"

81

*fff*

82

83

Measure 83: Treble clef, key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody consists of eighth and sixteenth notes with various articulations including slurs, accents, and staccato marks. The bass line features a series of beamed sixteenth notes.

84

Measure 84: Treble clef, key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody continues with eighth and sixteenth notes, including slurs and accents. The bass line has beamed sixteenth notes and a series of eighth notes.

85

Measure 85: Treble clef, key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody begins with a 'V' (breath mark) and features a long slur over a series of eighth notes. The bass line has beamed sixteenth notes.

86

Measure 86: Treble clef, key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody starts with a 'V' (breath mark) and includes a triplet of eighth notes marked with a '3'. The measure ends with a double bar line and a 'V' (breath mark) below the staff.



88 *sul tasto*

Expressive, sweetly

*p* *p* *f*

Track Two Begins

00:00

93

*f* *pmf*

97

*< f* *p*

01:27 01:29

102

*ff* *Hesitant mf* *< f*

01:42 02:05

108

*p* *f*

3

3

02:14

113 *On Fingerboard*

*p*

Left hand uses quarter pressure on strings, slowly move up and down length of bottom 3 strings.

02:24 02:30

122 *sul pont.* slowly increase bow pressure to hard scrape *sul tasto*

long, slow ascent

*mf* *ff* *p*

131

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

138

The musical score for 'Torn Edges' begins at measure 138. The melody is written on a single staff in treble clef, featuring a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 3/4. The melody consists of a series of eighth and quarter notes, with some measures containing beamed eighth notes. The score ends with a double bar line. Below the staff, there is a wavy line representing a track 2 ending, which is labeled 'Track 2 Ends' and ends with a double bar line. The track 2 ending is marked with a series of diamond-shaped notes. The score is divided into measures by vertical lines, with time markers at 04:19, 04:26, and 04:31. The track 2 ending is marked with a series of diamond-shaped notes.

04:19 04:26 04:31

Track 2 Ends

January-June 2008/ Bowling Green, OH