

Noah Godard

Salon Music

for string trio

(full score)

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Completed December 28, 2024

Version: November 26, 2025

Movements:

- I. Girandole
- II. Rocaille I
- III. À baldaquin
- IV. Rocaille II
- V. Boiserie
- VI. Epilogue: des fenêtres

Performance notes:

- s.p. = sul ponticello; s.t. = sul tasto
- Triangle noteheads refer to pitchless air sounds. This can be achieved by laying the palm of the LH across the strings; using multiple fingers at harmonic pressure on the same string; or by another method of the player's choosing.
- "X" noteheads on snap pizzicato refer to a pitchless "click" sound. The same method for muting the string may be used as the air sounds above, but it is especially important that these clicks are pitchless.
- The feathered beam gesture at the beginning of "À baldaquin" should be very legato, as if melting into a sustained note. Do not sync up between players. The specific number of noteheads is not to be taken literally.
- The major second harmonics in "À baldaquin" are intended to be fingered on a single string (that is, as artificial harmonics not on a node); these should also produce a shimmery, somewhat unpitched sound.
- "Scoops" up from pizz. notes should produce a bouncy sound ("boing!"). Aim for a slow gliss. of about a minor third.

Program note:

When I was asked to write a piece by the Entraide Française, I mused about this presence of French culture on the Upper East Side, which brought to mind one of my favorite places in New York: the Met's collection of French decorative arts. I certainly love an 18th-century period room, so I planned this series of miniatures inspired by the galleries at the Met.

For the most part, the music is inspired simply by the visual language of these rooms – their lavish layouts, warm lighting, and gilt ornamentation. But the piece also takes a step back, musing on the strangeness of peering into someone's drawing room from within a museum. I began to think about the false sense of interiority – all the windows, of course, have only walls behind them – and the "museumification of domesticity," so to speak.

For the performer's sake, it's worth pointing out that my intention was not to depict these rooms in a literal way – structurally, culturally, or historically. Perhaps the charming lightness of Couperin or Ravel was in the back of my mind, but this is certainly not a piece intending to sound meaningfully "French." Rather, the music is based on my own collected impressions, with the rooms' sense of domestic comfort filtered through a lens of 21st century Americana.

Duration: ca. 11 mins.

Salon Music was commissioned by the Entraide Française. It was premiered on January 31, 2025 at the Cultural Services of the French Embassy in New York. The revised version was premiered as part of the second annual NowBeat Concert at the Tenri Cultural Institute, on May 2, 2025.

Salon Music

I. Girandole

Noah Godard

Sneaking $\text{♩}=60$ **molto rall.** *sul G*

Violin *pp* *mf n sub.* *p* *pp sub.* *f* *n*

Viola *pp* *mf n sub.* *p* *pp sub.* *f* *p* *n* *sul G*

Cello *pp* *mf n sub.* *p* *pp sub.* *f* *p* *n* *sul D*

6 Warm, shimmering $\text{♩}=56$

Vln. *flaut, poco vib.* *p* *n* *non vib.* *p* *f* *n*

Vla. *flaut, poco vib.* *p* *n* *non vib.* *p* *f* *n*

Vc. *flaut, poco vib.* *p* *n* *pizz., warm* *mf* *arco, non vib.* *n* *p*

8 *(always sub.)*

Vln. *p* *pp* *f* *n* *p* *pp* *p*

Vla. *p* *pp sub.* *p* *f* *pp* *p* *pp* *(always sub.)*

Vc. *f* *n* *p* *f* *n* *p* *pp* *(always sub.)*

12 *accel.* *rall.*

Vln. *f* *pp* *mp* *pp* *p* *f* *n* *p*

Vla. *p* *f* *n* *p* *f* *n* *p*

Vc. *p* *f* *n* *mp* *pp* *f* *n*

16 *a tempo* (♩=56)

Vln. *ff* *p* *f* *n* *mf*

Vla. *ff* *mf* *n* *p* *mf* *n*

Vc. *ff* *p* *n* *n* *mf* *n*

3 pizz. *arco*

20 *molto accel.*

Vln. *n* *mp* *n*

Vla. *mf* *n* *mp* *pp*

Vc. *mf* *pp* *mp* *n*

(sul G)

Shattering ♩=108

26 A little faster, slightly anxious ♩=60

24

Vln. *ff p f*

Vla. *ff p f*

Vc. *ff p f*

pp

mp pp

pizz. *mf*

arco *n*

28

Vln. *p mf*

Vla. *p f n mf n*

Vc. *mp pp mf n n mp pp*

poco rall. molto accel.

33

Vln. *p ff p f pp*

Vla. *p ff p f pp*

Vc. *mf n ff p f*

35 Faster, more anxious ♩=69

p

p *f*

pizz. *mf*

arco, sul A *n*

molto accel. ♩=108

Vln. *mf* *pp* *p* *f* *pp* *ff* 3 *p* *mf*

Vla. *n* *p* *f* *f* *pizz.* *n* *arco* *ff* 3 *p* *mf* *pp*

Vc. *f* *n* *mf* *p* *ff* 3 *p* 3 *mf* *pp*

Gaining intensity ♩=84 *accel.* ♩=108

Vln. *f* *n* *f* *pp* *f* *p* *ff* 3 3

Vla. *vib.* *f* *p* *f* *pp* *sul D* *ff* 3 3

Vc. *vib.* *p* *f* *pp* *p* *f* *mp* *ff* 3 3

Melting rapidly (same tempo as previous bar) 45 In time, scurrying, buoyant ♩=216

Vln. *p* *f* *mp* *f* *mf* *ff* *pp sub.*

Vla. *p* *f* *mp* *f* *mf* *ff* *pp sub.*

Vc. *p* *f* *mp* *f* *mp* *ff* *pp sub.*

46

Vln. *mf p* *mf p* *f* *pp*

Vla. *mf p* *mf p* *f* *pp* *gliss.*

Vc. *mf p* *mf p* *mf p* *f* *p*

50

Vln. *f* *pp*

Vla. *f* *pp*

Vc. *f* *pp*

54

Vln. *f* *pp* *f* *pp*

Vla. *f* *pp* *f* *pp*

Vc. *f* *pp* *f* *pp*

poco rall. molto rall. (non vib.)

61 Shimmering $\text{♩} = 66$
(faster than before)

Vln. *mf* *pp* *n* *pp*

Vla. *mf* *pp* *n* *n*

Vc. *mf* *pp* *n* *mf* *n*

pizz. arco (non vib.)

Vln. *p* *f* *n* *p* *pp* *p* *f* *n* *p* *pp*

Vla. *p* *f* *n* *p* *pp* *p* *f* *n*

Vc. *p* *f* *n* *p* *f* *n*

molto accel.

66

Vln. *p* *f* *n* *mp* *pp* *f*

Vla. *mf* *n* *pp*

Vc. *p* *pp* *p* *f* *n* *p* *f*

Still tranquil, but much faster underlying pulse ♩=96

gradually more vib. until m. 83

69

Vln. *pp* *mp* *pp* *mf*

Vla. *f* *n* *p* *f* *n* *mf*

Vc. pizz. arco *mf* *n* *mp* *pp* *f* *pp*

73

Vln. *pp* *f* *n* *mf*

Vla. *n* *p* *fpp* *mf* *p* *f* *3* *pp*

Vc. *3* *3* *mf* *6* *f* *f* *n* *f* *n*

gradually more vib. until m. 83

poco accel. Faster ♩=104

76

Vln. *pp* *f* *p* *mf* *pp*

Vla. *f* *n* *p* *f*

Vc. *f* *3* *pp* *3* *6* *f* *f* *pp* *mp* *pp*

gradually more vib. until m. 83

79

Vln. *f* *pp* *f* *pp* *f* *p*

Vla. *p* *f* *p* *f* *pp* *f* *p*

Vc. *f* *pp* *f* *pp* *f* *pp*

82 *molto vib.* Scurrying $\text{♩} = \text{♩}$ ($\text{♩} = 208$)

Vln. *f* *pp* *f* *ppp sub.*

Vla. *f* *pp* *f* *ppp sub.*

Vc. *fpp* *f* *ppp sub.*

86 Free time ($\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 104$) Intense $\text{♩} = 192$

Vln. *ff* *f* *ff* *ffpp*

Vla. *ff* *f* *ff* *ffpp*

Vc. *ff* *f* *ff* *ffpp*

l.v.!

Free time ($\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 96$) $\text{♩} = 172$

Vln. *ff* *f* mf *f* *fpp* *f* *mf*

Vla. *ff* *f* mf *f* *fpp* *f* *mf*

Vc. *f* mf *f* *fpp* *f* *mf*

Free time ($\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 88$) $\text{♩} = 160$ poco rall.

Vln. poco flaut. *p* *fpp* mf *p* *mp*

Vla. poco flaut. *p* *fpp* mf *p* *mp*

Vc. > poco flaut. *p* *fpp* mf

Free time ($\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 80$) poco rall. $\text{♩} = 120$

Vln. molto flaut., molto sostenuto (ord.) (long) mf mfpp mf

Vla. molto flaut., molto sostenuto (ord.) mf mfpp mf

Vc. molto flaut., molto sostenuto *p* *mp* mf mfpp mf

rall. **99** Quaint, dainty, almost ironic ♩=88

(all trills from above)

97

Vln. *p* *pp* *p* *pp* *tr*

Vla. *pp* *p* *pp*

Vc. *pp* *p* *pp*

102

Vln. *mf* *pp sub.* *tr*

Vla. *mf* *pp sub.*

Vc. *mf* *pp sub.*

108

Vln. *poco rall.* *tr* ($\text{♩}=\text{ca}80$)

Vla. *f*

Vc.

II. Rocaille I

115 Scurrying, playful $\text{♩}=184$

Violin *pp* *non cresc.*

Viola *pp* *pizz.* *arco* *pp* *pizz.*

Cello *pp* *ppp* *ppp*

119

Vln. *f* *p*

Vla. *arco* *pp* *mf* *pp* *p*

Vc. *p* *ppp* *mf* *n*

122

Vln. *f* *pp* *pp*

Vla. *(sul C)* *mp* *n* *(w/ Vc.)* *p* *(all trills from above)* *tr* *tr*

Vc. *mf* *n* *pizz. (w/ Vla.)* *p*

126

Vln. *mf* *p* *p* *pp sub.*

Vla. *pizz.* *p* *p* *pp*

Vc. *mf* *p* *p* *pp*

arco

129

Vln. *f* *mp* *p* *n* (sul G)

Vla. *f* *mp* *pp*

Vc. *f* *p* *n* *p* (sul C)

132

Vln. *pp* *ff* *p* *pizz.*

Vla. *ff* *p* *pizz.*

Vc. *mf* *f* *p* *pizz.*

molto rall.

III. À baldaquin

136 Free time, molto sostenuto (♩=ca.36) (Vln. cues downbeat)

Violin arco, s.p. → s.t. *sffz* *pp* *n* *n*

Viola arco, s.p. → s.t. *sffz* *pp* *n* *mf* *n*

Cello arco, s.p. → s.t. *sffz* *pp* *n* *n* *mf* *n*

poco s.p. (see Performance Notes) arco

138 (tr) poco s.p. (see Performance Notes) (Vc. cues)

Vln. *mf* *n* *mf* *n* *mp* *n*

Vla. (tr) air sound, sul A (see note) sul G *mf* *n* *n* *p* *n*

Vc. arco poco s.p. (see Performance Notes) *n* *mp* *n* *mf* *n*

140 In time; distant, mildly folksy ♩=60

Vln. (tr) *f* *n* *ppp*

pizz, guitarlike (strum grace notes before beat)

Vla. *mf* 3 *n*

Vc. (tr) *f* *n* (ord.) *ppp*

Free time ($\text{♩} = \text{ca.} 36$)

143 *air sound, sul G (see note)*

Vln. *mf* *n* *arco* *tr* *n* *mf* *n* *n* *p* *n*

Vla. *n* *mf* *n* *mf* *n* *n*

Vc. *poco s.p.* *ord.* *tr* *n* *mf* *poco s.p.* *ord.* *tr* *n*

mf *p* *n* *mf* *mf* *n*

In time $\text{♩} = 60$

144 *pizz, guitarlike (strum grace notes before beat)*

rall. **147** **Molto sostenuto, rubato** $\text{♩} = 60$

Vln. *p* *3* *3* *3* *p* *arco, poco vib.* *extra-gentle trill, shimmer*

Vla. *f* *n* *n* *poco vib.* *extra-gentle trill, shimmer*

Vc. *f* *n* *ppp* *slow* *fast* *slow* *poco vib.* *extra-gentle trill, shimmer*

mf *p* *mf* *p*

poco accel. *rall.* **a tempo** ($\text{♩} = 60$)

148 *slightly more vib.*

Vln. *p* *mp* *pp* *slightly more vib.*

Vla. *p* *mp* *pp* *slightly more vib.*

Vc. *p* *mf* *pp*

poco rall. *Slightly slower* ♩=58

Vln. *vib. ord.* *3* *3* *less vib.* *pp* *poco vib., sul tasto*

Vla. *3* *less vib.* *pp* *poco vib., sul tasto*

Vc. *vib. ord.* *less vib.* *pp* *poco vib., sul tasto*

poco accel. *rall.* *Plaintive* ♩=66 *rall.*

Vln. *3* *f* *n* *pp* *molto sul tasto*

Vla. *0* *f* *n* *pp* *molto sul tasto*

Vc. *3* *f* *n* *pp* *molto sul tasto*

163 *Senza misura* (♩=ca.36)

Vln. *161* *to sul pont.* *sul G* *s.p.* *ffz* *s.t.*

Vla. *to sul pont.* *s.p.* *ffz* *s.t.* *pp*

Vc. *to sul pont.* *s.p.* *ffz* *s.t.* *pp*

(Vln. cues)

In time ♩=60

164

Vln. *pp* *n* *n* *mf* *n*

Vla. *n* *n* *mf* *n*

Vc. *n* *n* *mf* *n* *mf* 3 *mf* 3

pizz, guitarlike (strum grace notes before beat)

167 poco s.p.

Vln. *mf*

Vla. *mf*

Vc.

IV. Rocaille II

168 Playful, less scurrying than before ♩=132

Violin: *pp*, *pp*, *p* < *tr*

Viola: *pizz.*, *p*, *arco*, *pp*

Cello: *arco*, *ppp*, *pizz.*, *p*

Measures 168-171. The Violin part features a melodic line with a trill in measure 171. The Viola and Cello provide harmonic support with pizzicato and arco passages.

172

Vln.: *tr*, *mf*

Vla.: *p*, *p*, *mf*, *pizz.*, *p*, *arco*, *p*

Vc.: *p*, *p*, *mf*, *pizz.*, *p*, *arco*, *pp*

Measures 172-175. The Violin part continues with a trill. The Viola and Cello parts show a variety of articulations including pizzicato and arco.

176

Vln.: *p*, *f*, *pp*

Vla.: *mf*, *arco*, *pp*

Vc.: *mp*, *pizz.*, *p*

Measures 176-179. The Violin part features a dynamic shift from *p* to *f* and back to *pp*. The Viola and Cello parts continue with their respective articulations.

181

Vln. *f* *pizz.* *p* *arco* *p* *f* *pizz.* *p*

Vla. *f* *pizz.* *p* *arco* *p* *f*

Vc. *mp* *mf*

185

Vln. *arco* *pp* *mf* *rall.* *pp*

Vla. *pp* *mf* *pizz.* *p* *arco* *pp*

Vc. *p*

(attacca)

V. Boiserie

$\text{♩} = \text{♩}$. Bouncy, warm, woody $\text{♩} = 108$

188

Violin *ff*

Viola *f* *pizz.* *p*

Cello *f* *p*

191 193 poco vib. (very slow and wide)

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

pp *mf*

195

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

p *mp*

198

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

p

202 204

Vln. *mf* *p* *f*

Vla. *f*

Vc. *f* pizz.

205

Vln. *p* pizz.

Vla. *p* *pp* arco, poco s.p. (all trills from above)

Vc. *p*

208

Vln. *mf* *p*

Vla. pizz.

Vc.

211

Vln. arco, poco s.p. *pp*

Vla.

Vc. arco, poco s.p. *pp* *tr*

214 poco rall. - - - 215 a tempo

Vln. *tr* ord. *pp* *tr*

Vla. arco (ord.) *pp* *tr*

Vc. pizz. (strum) arco (ord.) *pp*

219

Vln. *tr*

Vla. *tr*

Vc. *tr* *mf*

225

Vln. *mf* *pizz.* *p*

Vla. *mf* *(mf)* *pizz.* *p*

Vc. *(mf)* *pizz.* *p*

Measures 225-227. Vln. and Vla. play pizzicato. Vc. plays a pizzicato line. Dynamics: *mf*, *p*, *(mf)*.

228

229

Vln. *arco* *n* *p* *f*

Vla. *mf* *p sub.*

Vc. *(slow strum, l.v.)* *mf* *p sub.*

Measures 228-230. Vln. plays arco. Vla. and Vc. play *p sub.*. Vc. has a *(slow strum, l.v.)* instruction. Dynamics: *mf*, *p*, *f*.

231

Vln. *pizz.* *pp* *arco* *mf*

Vla. *arco, sul pont* *pp*

Vc. *mf* *p sub.*

Measures 231-233. Vln. plays *pizz.* then *arco*. Vla. plays *arco, sul pont*. Vc. plays a line. Dynamics: *pp*, *mf*, *p sub.*.

234

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

pp

f

f

pizz.

p

237

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

n

p

poco accel.

tr

arco, sul pont

pp

f

n

mf

p sub.

240

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

f

n

p

f

arco

tr

p

f

p

mf

p sub.

accel. (♩=168)

243

Vln. *n* *p* *f* *p*

Vla. *f* *p* *f* *p*

Vc. *f* *p sub.* (♩=♩)

246 ♩=♩ Feverish, confused, aggressive (♩=ca.216)

Vln. *ff* *pp* *ff* *p*

Vla. *ff* *pp* *ff*

Vc. *ff* *pp* *ff* *p*

arco

250 (in time)

Vln. *f* *pp* *ff* *pp* *f* *mf*

Vla. *p* *pp* *ff* *pp* *mf* *p* *f* *ff*

Vc. *f* *pp* *ff* *pp* *f* *mp* *ff*

254

Vln. *ff* *pp* *ff* *pp* *f* *mp*

Vla. *f* *pp* *ff* *pp*

Vc. *f* *pp* *ff* *mp* *pp*

258

Vln. *ff* *mf* *ff* (sul G) *ff* *pp* *p* overpressure (sul G)

Vla. *ff* *f* *ff* (sul G) *ff* *pp* *p* overpressure

Vc. *ff* *f* *ff* *ff* *pp* *p*

(attacca)

VI. Epilogue: des fenêtres

262 Barren $\text{♩} = 72$

Violin *ff* mute on air sound, sul G *ppp* *pp* (non dim.)

Viola *ff* air sound, C *ppp* *pp*

Cello *ff* air sound, sul C *ppp* *pp* mute on

Violin (Vln.) part: Treble clef, 3/4 time. The first measure contains a whole note chord (G4, B4, D5) with a 'snap pizz. palm muted string' instruction. The second measure has a half note G4 with a 'mute on' instruction. The third measure has a half note B4. The fourth measure has a half note D5. The fifth measure has a half note G4. The sixth measure has a half note B4. The seventh measure has a half note D5. The eighth measure has a half note G4. The ninth measure has a half note B4. The tenth measure has a half note D5. The eleventh measure has a half note G4. The twelfth measure has a half note B4. The thirteenth measure has a half note D5. The fourteenth measure has a half note G4. The fifteenth measure has a half note B4. The sixteenth measure has a half note D5. The score ends with a 2/4 time signature change.

Viola (Vla.) part: Alto clef, 3/4 time. The first measure contains a whole note chord (G4, B4, D5) with a 'pizz., guitarlike' instruction. The second measure has a half note G4. The third measure has a half note B4. The fourth measure has a half note D5. The fifth measure has a half note G4. The sixth measure has a half note B4. The seventh measure has a half note D5. The eighth measure has a half note G4. The ninth measure has a half note B4. The tenth measure has a half note D5. The eleventh measure has a half note G4. The twelfth measure has a half note B4. The thirteenth measure has a half note D5. The fourteenth measure has a half note G4. The fifteenth measure has a half note B4. The sixteenth measure has a half note D5. The score ends with a 2/4 time signature change.

Violoncello (Vc.) part: Bass clef, 3/4 time. The first measure contains a whole note chord (G3, B3, D4) with a 'pizz., guitarlike' instruction. The second measure has a half note G3. The third measure has a half note B3. The fourth measure has a half note D4. The fifth measure has a half note G3. The sixth measure has a half note B3. The seventh measure has a half note D4. The eighth measure has a half note G3. The ninth measure has a half note B3. The tenth measure has a half note D4. The eleventh measure has a half note G3. The twelfth measure has a half note B3. The thirteenth measure has a half note D4. The fourteenth measure has a half note G3. The fifteenth measure has a half note B3. The sixteenth measure has a half note D4. The score ends with a 2/4 time signature change.

Barren again ♩=66

273 Radio again ♪=72

Violin I (Vln.) part: Starts at measure 270 with a *p* dynamic, marked *non vib.* and *sul A*. It features a crescendo from *ppp* to *pp*. At measure 273, it changes to *f* with a *snap pizz. palm muted string* instruction.

Viola (Vla.) part: Starts at measure 270 with a *pp* dynamic, marked *sul D*. It features a crescendo from *pp* to *ppp*. At measure 273, it changes to *p* with the instruction *ord., non vib. (like fiddling) melancholy, innocent*.

Violoncello (Vc.) part: Starts at measure 270 with a *f* dynamic, marked *arco, sul A*. It features a crescendo from *ppp* to *pp*. At measure 273, it changes to *p* with a *pizz.* instruction and a triplet of eighth notes.

slow vib.
(*awakening*)

sharp
cutoff!

[illegible]