

NICKY SOHN

CAN YOU STOP THE TIME? (NO)

FOR STRING QUARTET

(2021)

Instrumentation

Violin I
Violin II
Viola
Cello

Duration - ca. 7 minutes

Time is the question, the answer, and the method of life. Despite knowing the units of time and what they roughly mean, this comes second to how we feel it. One could trudge through what feels like hours of a boring lecture, fending off sleep, to have only spent ten minutes. The opposite is true as well. For instance, a whole day with someone you love can pass by like a blur and you may forget what time does to you—sleep, hunger, and life is entirely disregarded.

“Can you stop the time?” is about this second meaning of time and is a question we’ve all thought about in some form, at some point in our lives. Concurrently, this piece explores textures that resemble time slipping away too quickly, incorporating elements of tremolo, trills, ascending and descending runs, and sudden changes in dynamics.

The moment that we ask “Can you stop the time?” is a moment too precious to forfeit. But time cannot be stopped, so we accept the answer that gives us another option, the future—one with hope and promise of good fortune.

Can you stop the time? (no)

Nicky Sohn

$\text{♩} = 66$

Violin I Violin II Viola Cello

Vln. I Vln. II Vla. Vc.

Vln. I Vln. II Vla. Vc.

Vln. I Vln. II Vla. Vc.

10

Can you stop the time? (no)

13

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Musical score for strings (Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., Vc.) in 2/4 time, key of A major (two sharps). Measure 16 starts with a forte dynamic (f) for Vln. I, followed by a dynamic change to *sfz* for Vla. and Vc. Measures 17-18 show alternating dynamics between *fp* and *f*, with various performance techniques indicated: *fp* with a grace note pattern, *f* with a sustained note, *fp* with a grace note pattern, *f* with a sustained note, *pizz.* (pizzicato) for Vln. II, *fp* with a grace note pattern, *f* with a sustained note, *fp* with a grace note pattern, *f* with a sustained note, and *sfz* (soft forte) for Vla. and Vc.

Musical score for strings (Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., Vc.) showing measures 18-21. The score includes dynamic markings such as *fp*, *f*, *ff*, *p*, and *p* *prominently*. Measure 18 starts with *fp* in Vln. I, followed by *f*. Measure 19 begins with *fp* in Vln. II, followed by *f*. Measure 20 starts with *p* in Vla., followed by *f*. Measure 21 starts with *ff* in Vln. II, followed by *p*. The Vla. part ends with an *arco* dynamic. The Vc. part features sustained notes with dynamic changes between *ff*, *p*, and *f*.