

Cover Page

Neil Gow's Lament for his Second Wife

for 2 Flutes, 2 Violins, Viola, Cello, Keyboard/Bass

Title: Neil Gow's Lament for his Second Wife

Origin: Scottish, Neil Gow (1727-1807)

Key: D Major

Metre: Slow 6/8

Rhythms: 

Skill Level: Violins Level 4+

Duration: 2:30

About the Music: Neil Gow (1727-1807) was one of 19th Century Scotland's premier composers of the Slow Air. This air is in memory of Margaret Urquhart. It is a true composition and should be played as such.

Performance Suggestions

- The **INTRO** can be played freely. The solo can be taken by Flute or Violin I.
- **Violin I** should play long, flowing lines, with breath-like hesitations between phrases.
- Viola is optional.
- **Grace notes** (m. 16, 32) should be on the beat, and quite pronounced. Other grace notes should be light and before the beat.
- The three **fermata** (m. 30, 32, 34) should be held progressively longer.
- The **final phrase** should be played reluctantly, and with great feeling.

Pedagogy (For teachers)

- **Smooth bow changes** are a must.
- The **dotted eighth/16th rhythm** should be measured carefully.
- **Violin II** requires a little more skill (**3rd position**) than Violin I
- **Cellists and Flutists** should be rhythmically very secure.
- The **final 5 measures** require patient work to achieve the mood of the music.