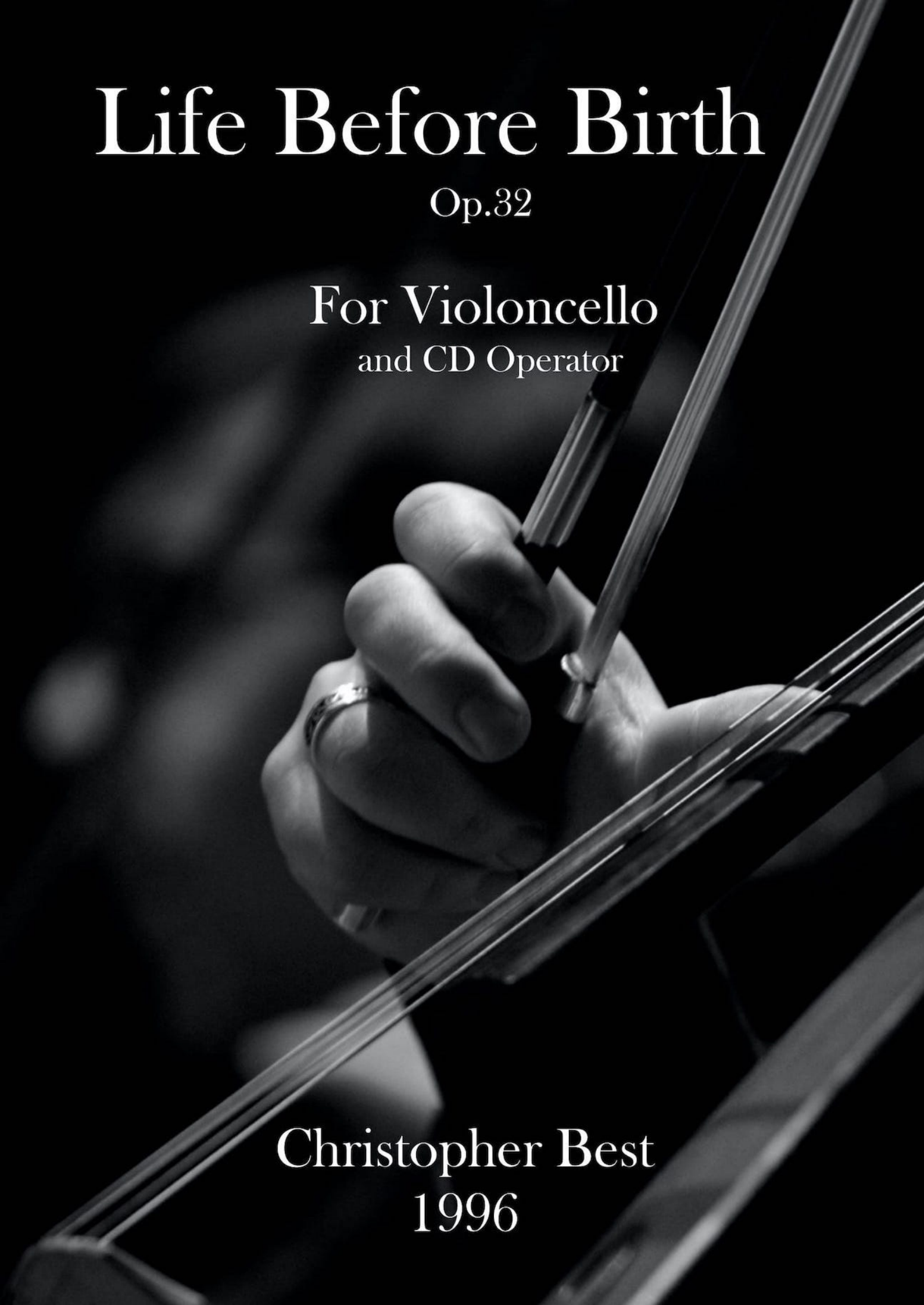


Life Before Birth

Op.32

For Violoncello
and CD Operator

Christopher Best
1996



Instrumentation and Resources

Violoncello

CD operator: 2 CD players, mixing desk (minimum 4 in, 2 out), amplifier, speakers

Composer's Notes

General

1. CD 1 contains a tuning guide at the start, which should be used immediately prior to the performance for ensuring that the cello is tuned correctly to the backing tracks.
2. A balance between the live cello and backing should be established that approximates to the cello playing as soloist with an ensemble of about ten other acoustic string players.
3. An up arrow in the score indicates that the cellist cues the CD operator. A down arrow indicates that the backing track cues the cellist.
4. Tempo indications normally only refer to the solo part and will not necessarily be followed by the backing track. Sometimes the tempo of the backing is shown as well for reference. Where soloist and CD tracks are intended to synchronise the instruction **IN TEMPO WITH BACKING** appears in the solo part.

Cello

1. Grace notes should be played before the beat.
2. In sections marked *Tempo ad lib.* the soloist should try not to match the tempo of the backing track. However, if material on the backing track is shown above the solo part then the player should avoid getting too far out of step, as there is likely to be a coordination cue shortly after.

CD operator

1. Instructions for the CD operator are in boxed text. Numbers in square [] brackets refer to track numbers on the relevant CD.
2. CD players should have their display set to 'track time remaining' (i.e. counting down to zero), enabling the operator to see at all times how much time is left before the next track.
3. When told to **PAUSE** the CD, the operator should allow the track to play to the end and then immediately pause the machine. This ensures that releasing pause (or pressing **PLAY**, depending on the design of the CD player) will cause the next track to start immediately.
4. When told to **STOP** the CD, the operator should do so and then press the next track number. As soon as the CD starts to play, the operator should immediately press **PAUSE**. The next track is thus cued ready in the same way as before.

Duration c.26 mins

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CD 1 [2] play string chords..tremolando..string chords..tremolando;

Backing

Violoncello

Lento (♩ = c.60)

p

Vc.

sul A

Più mosso

CD 1 fade down (until just audible) CD 1 fade back up ..tremolando continues.

CD 2 [1] play string chords..... ..end CD 2 pause

rit.

sul G/D sul D/A

c.20 secs

Tempo I (♩ = c.60)

mp

Vc.

Più mosso (♩ = c.100)

rall.

mp

CD 1 slow fade.. ..CD 1 faded to nothing CD 1 stop

CD 2 [2] play string chords....

Bckg

Meno mosso (♩ = c.84)

rall.

p cresc.

f sul A

gliss.

..tremolando; FADE UP CD 1!

Vc. *mf* **Più mosso** **Andante**

Vc. **poco rit.** **Più mosso** *più f*

Vc. **poco rit.** **Andante** *p* *cresc.* *cresc.*

Vc. CD 2 start v.slow fade **Tempo moderato** ($\text{♩} = \text{c.92}$) *f* *mf* *mp* *pizz.* *arco*

Vc. **Più mosso** ($\text{♩} = \text{c.104}$) **Ancora più mosso** ($\text{♩} = \text{c.120}$) *f* *mf* *(l.h. pizz.)* *(arco)*

Vc. CD 2 faded to nothing CD 2 stop FADE UP CD 2! **rall.** **A tempo** *f* *mf* *sim*

Vc. **rit.** **Meno mosso** ($\text{♩} = \text{c.104}$) *f*

Vc. **Allegretto** ($\text{♩} = \text{c.126}$)

Vc. *cresc.* *ff* *mf* rit.

Vc. **A tempo** *mp* *f* *mp* *mf* **A tempo**

Vc. *cresc.*

Vc. **Allegro** (♩ = c.132) *f*

Vc. *f*

Vc. *mp* *cresc.* *mf* *f* *mf* *cresc.*

Vc.

Vc. **poco accel.** *ff* **Più allegro** (♩ = c.140)

Vc. *sim* *fff*

Col legno battuto/pizz.

Allegro con moto (♩ = c.120)

c. 2 mins

pizz.

Bckg

Bckg

Vc.

col legno (c.l.) (battuto sempre)

f

Vc.

f *f* *mp* *f*

Vc.

mf *sfz* *sfz* *sfz*

Vc.

sfz *sfz* *sfz* *f*

Vc.

pizz. c.l. pizz. c.l. pizz. c.l. pizz.

Vc.

c.l. pizz. c.l. pizz.

dim. poco a poco *(mf)*

Vc.

c.l. pizz. c.l. pizz.

(mp) *p*

Bckg

pizz. 2'11"

Bckg

Bckg

etc.

Vc.

arco

mp cantabile *mf cresc.*

Vc. *f* *mp* *mf cresc.* *f*

Bckg. *mp* *mf cresc.* *f*

Vc. *mp* *mf cresc.* *f*

Bckg. *mf* *mp* *mf cresc.* *f*

Vc. *mf* *mp* *mf cresc.* *f*

Vc. *mf* *mf cresc.*

Bckg. (pizz.) *f*

Vc. *f*

Bckg. *mf* *f*

Vc. *mf* *f*

Bckg. *mf*

Vc. *mf*

Bckg. continues and fades..

Vc. *mp* *p* *pp*

sustained chords... ..loud arco and pizz

Largo, poco rubato (♩ = c.72)

Più mosso

Vc. *mp* *sul A* *mf*

Più mosso rit. (♩ = c.90)

Vc. *mp < mf* *mf*

sul G/D *sul G/D*

A tempo

rit. (♩ = c.72)

Vc. *mp* *mf* *f* *mp < mp* *sul D*

CD 2 [3] play CD 2 pause

CD 2 [4] play

Vc. *mf* *dim. mp* *mf marc.* *pizz.* *sonore* *f* *sul G D G*

CD 2 pause **CD 2 [5] play**

arco **ossia top line only** **pizz.**

Vc. *mf* *mp* *f* *sul G D A*

CD 2 pause

Più mosso **rall.** (♩ = c.72)

arco **mf** **mf** **più f** **f**

pizz. arco pizz. arco

CD 2 [6] play

CD 2 pause

mp **f** **mf**

pizz. arco pizz. arco

f sul G D G D A

CD 2 [7] play

CD 2 pause

p **mp**

3 3 3

p sul D gliss. gliss.

CD 2 [8] play

CD 2 pause

f **mf** **mp**

3 3 3

f sul A gliss.

rit. **A tempo** **rit.** **A tempo** **rit.**

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

Vc. **A tempo**

mf *pesante espress.* *mp dolce*

CD 2 [9] play

CD 2 pause

mf *3* *sul D/A* *mp* *mf* **Più mosso** (♩ = c.92)

CD 2 [10] play

CD 2 pause

Vc. **molto rall.**

mf *3* *p subito* *f* **A tempo** **Andante** (♩ = c.100)

Vc. *mf* **Poco meno mosso**

f *mp* **A tempo** *f*

CD 2 [11] play

CD 2 pause

Vc. *mf* **Poco meno mosso**

f *mp* **A tempo** *f*

CD 2 [12] play

CD 2 pause

Vc. *mf* **Poco meno mosso**

f *mp* **A tempo** *mf*

CD 2 mixer faders out

Cross fade CD 1 (down) with CD 2 (up)

CD 1 fade fully out, CD 2 fade fully up

CD 1 stop

CD 2 [13] play

Meno mosso (♩ = c.72)

gliss.

Andante (♩ = c.90)

mp

FADE UP CD 1!

pizz.

arco

mf

f marcato

CD 1 [4] play (♩ = c.100) string chords

poco rall.

sul pont.

In tempo with backing

normale

3

mp

mf

7 +Pizz.

(Pizz.)

Bckg

Vc.

+ deep note

Bckg

Vc.

Tempo ad lib (♩ = c.63)

mf

5

mp

string chords

CD 1 pause

Bckg

Vc.

+ deep note

pizz.

arco

Sul D

f

A

D

A

D

mp subito

mf

poco rit. Andante agitato

(♩ = c.72)

Vc. *mp* 5

CD 1 [5] play

string chords

CD 2 fade out

CD 2 fully faded out (allow to stop in own time)

Bckg (pizz.) arco (+ pizz.)

Vc. *f* *mp subito*

Tempo ad lib *In tempo with backing*

sul pont. pizz. normale arco

Sul D A D A D

Bckg

Vc. *f*

Bckg pizz. etc.

Vc. *mf pesante* *cresc.*

Bckg

Vc. *f* *mp* *mf* *sul pont.*

Bckg *pizz./arco*

̄ + deep note

Vc. **Tempo ad lib** (♩ = c.72)
normale

f

Bckg

Bckg

Vc. **Più mosso (tempo ad lib)** *mf* **rall.** **Meno mosso** *f*

Bckg arco pizz./arco arco pizz./arco

Vc. **rit.** **Adagio (in tempo with backing)** (♩ = c.64) *mp*

Bckg arco pizz./arco arco pizz./arco arco pizz./arco arco pizz./arco

Vc. pizz. arco vib. pizz. arco vib. *mp p mp p*

Bckg arco pizz./arco arco

Vc. vib. pizz. arco vib. *mp p*