

ਅਰਜਨ ਸਿੰਘ ਡੋਗਰਾ
Arjan Singh Dogra

ਲੋਭ

Lobh

*for alto flute, violin,
viola, and violoncello*

[2025]

Lobh

Arjan Singh Dogra [2025]

Instrumentation:

Alto Flute

Violin

Viola

Cello

Duration:

6 minutes

Score is transposed

Performance Notes

General

The entire piece should be performed without vibrato. "ord." does not cancel non-vibrato.

Intonation:

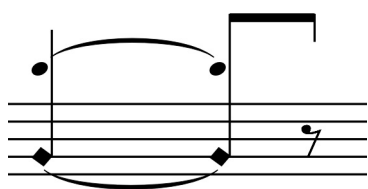
♭ - 1/4 flat ♯ - 1/4 sharp ♭ - flatten by one septimal comma; nat. seventh above C2 in mvt. III

Accidentals carry through the bar and only apply to the octave where they are attached.

Alto Flute

Two types of whistle tones are called for in this piece: stable and unstable.

w.t. (stable)



- finger the diamond notehead and play a single whistle tone for the duration of the note. aim for stability but some instability is to be expected

w.t.



- produce whistle tones while fingering the tremolo. Any contour, irregular

Strings

s.p. - sul ponticello m.s.p. - molto sul ponticello s.t. - sul tasto m.s.t. - molto sul tasto

Natural harmonics that are indicated with diamond noteheads are marked with **filled** diamond noteheads if their rhythmic value is a crochet/quarter note (including dotted forms) or less.

Fingered tremolos should always be played at a fast speed, but never aggressive.

About the work

Lobh (English: greed) is a set of six miniatures that reflects on material desire. In Sikh thought, lobh is counted among the "five thieves," habits of mind that steal clarity and lead to suffering. As I consider how my practice of Sikhi dialogues with my practice of composition, both of which are deeply spiritual and linked for me, *lobh* is the concept I find hardest to reconcile. I often compose by listening for what the musical material seems to desire and by realizing those tendencies in sound. However, in this piece, the wanting rises to the surface and is met with gentle restraint. The act of writing becomes a compositional meditation on recognizing the lure, sitting with it, and letting it go.

- Arjan Singh

Lobh was written for the Tacet(i) Ensemble as part of the 2025 International Composition Institute of Thailand.

Lobh

ਅਰਜਨ ਸਿੰਘ ਡੋਗਰਾ
Arjan Singh Dogra

I. ਰੁਝਾਨ - *rujhān* - inclination, tendency

♩ = 54

*any unspecified whistle tone above fingered note, aim for stability but some instability expected

Alto Flute

non vib. 3 flz.

Violin

con sord. s.t., non vib. III II s.p. 5 ord. 5

Viola

con sord. s.t., non vib. IV II s.p. 3 pp ord. 5

Violoncello

con sord. III II s.p. I 5

A. Fl.

5 w.t. (stable) 3

Vln.

s.t. III II ord. 3 II

Vla.

s.t. II ord. I 3

Vc.

III II 3

9

A. Fl. *flz.* *pp* *pp* *mp* *pp* *p* *w.t.*

Vln. *s.p.* *pp* *ppp* *mp* *pp* *p* *II ord.* *III*

Vla. *s.p.* *pp* *pp* *mp* *pp* *p* *(s.p.)* *ord.* *I* *II* *5*

Vc. *s.p.* *pp* *ppp* *mp* *pp* *p* *I* *ord.* *5* *III*

12

A. Fl. *w.t. (stable)* *pp* *mp* *ppp* *flz.* *p* *pp* *5*

Vln. *s.t.* *III* *II* *pp* *mp* *pp* *III ord.* *II* *ppp* *6* *ord.* *5* *III* *II* *p* *pp*

Vla. *s.t.* *II* *pp* *mp* *pp* *II ord.* *I* *ppp* *6* *ord.* *5* *ord.* *III* *II* *I* *p* *pp*

Vc. *III* *II* *pp* *mp* *ppp* *III* *II* *I* *p* *pp* *5*

15

A. Fl.

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

w.t.

Vln.

s.p. *mp* *p* *mp* *mp* *p*

II ord.

III

Vla.

s.p. *mp* *pp* *mf* *p* *f* *mp* *p*

(s.p.) → ord.

3

II

Vc.

s.p. *mp* *p* *mp* *pp* *p*

I

ord. (III)

5

III

18

A. Fl.

ppp *pp* *ppp* *p*

w.t.

Vln.

(IV) m.s.t. *ppp* *pp* *ppp* *p* *pp*

II ord.

III

II

Vla.

m.s.t. *ppp* *pp* *ppp* *p* *pp*

II ord.

s.t.

II

I

Vc.

s.t. *ppp* *pp* *ppp* *p* *pp*

II ord.

III s.t.

II

II. ਖਿੱਚ - *khich* - to pull

♩=54

22

A. Fl.

ppp *p* *ppp* *p* *ppp* *p*

senza sord.
m.s.t.

Vln.

ppp *p* *pp* *p* *pp*

senza sord.
m.s.t.

Vla.

ppp *ppp* *pp* *pp* *pp* *pp*

senza sord.
m.s.t.

Vc.

pp *pp* *pp* *ppp* *ppp* *ppp*

25

A. Fl.

pp *mf* *ppp* *pp* *ppp* *pp* *mf* *ppp* *pp*

Vln.

ppp *p* *p* *mf* *pp* *pp*

pizz. arco (m.s.t.)

Vla.

ppp *pp* *ppp* *pp* *mf* *p* *pp*

ord. m.s.t.

Vc.

pp *mf* *pp* *ppp* *pp* *mf* *ppp*

pizz. arco (m.s.t.)

28

A. Fl.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

ppp *mf* *ppp* *p* *pp* *mf* *pp*

ord. 5 m.s.t. 3 pizz. 3 arco (m.s.t.) ord. 3 m.s.t.

pp *mf* *pp* *pp* *mf* *p* *pp* *f* *ppp*

pizz. arco (m.s.t.) ord. m.s.t. pizz. 3

mf *p* *ppp* *mf* *pp* *mf* *f*

pizz. arco (m.s.t.) ord. m.s.t.

pp *mf* *ppp* *pp* *pp* *mf* *ppp* *pp*

31

A. Fl.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

p *ppp* *p* *pp* *f* *pp* *f*

ord. 3 pizz.

p *pp* *p* *pp* *f*

arco (m.s.t.) 3 pizz. arco ord.

ppp *pp* *pp* *pp* *f* *pp*

pp *pp* *ppp* *pp* *f* *pp* *f*

34

A. Fl.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

pp *f* *pp* *f*

arco

pizz.

pp *f*

pizz.

arco

f *pp* *f*

pizz.

3

38

A. Fl.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

embouchure bend

ppp freeze

arco

pp *f*

con sord.
arco, m.s.t.

ppp 5 5 5 5 freeze

3

III. ਠਹਿਰਾਉ - *ṭhahirāu* - stillness

♩=48

*try to sustain both pitches,
an unstable sound is desired

40

A. Fl. *ppp* *pp* *p*

Vln. *pppp* *p*

Vla. (con sord.) *poco accent IV *ppp* *ppp* *p* *pp*

Vc. arco IV *pppp* *pizz.* *p*

from cello

circular bow, medium-slow bow speed

42

A. Fl. *pp* *mp* *pp* *p* *ppp*

Vln. *pp* *mp*

Vla. *pp* *ppp* *p* *ppp*

Vc. *ppp* *p* *pizz.* *p*

from cello

circular bow, medium-slow bow speed

arco, circular bow, medium-slow bow speed half-harmonic pressure

IV. पकड़ - *pakar* - to grasp

♩=96

45

A. Fl. *ff* always

Vln. *ff* always

Vla. *ff* always
senza sord.
pizz.

Vc. *ff* always

47

A. Fl.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

49

A. Fl.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

51

A. Fl.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

53

A. Fl.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

This block contains the musical notation for measures 53 and 54. The score is for four instruments: Alto Flute (A. Fl.), Violin (Vln.), Viola (Vla.), and Violoncello (Vc.). Measures 53 and 54 are separated by a double bar line. The A. Fl. part features a melodic line with many slurs and accents, with fingerings 6, 5, 6, 5 indicated. The Vln. part has a similar melodic line with fingerings 6, 6, 5, 6. The Vla. part has a lower melodic line with fingerings 5, 6, 5, 5. The Vc. part is in the bass clef with a steady eighth-note accompaniment, with fingerings 5, 5, 3 indicated.

55

A. Fl.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

This block contains the musical notation for measures 55 and 56. The score is for the same four instruments. Measures 55 and 56 are separated by a double bar line. The A. Fl. part continues the melodic line with fingerings 5, 5, 5, 6, 5, 6. The Vln. part has fingerings 6, 5, 6, 6, 5. The Vla. part has fingerings 6, 5, 6, 5, 6, 6. The Vc. part continues the eighth-note accompaniment with fingerings 5, 3 indicated.

[illegible][illegible]

61

A. Fl.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

This block contains the musical notation for measures 61 and 62. It features four staves: A. Fl. (Alto Flute), Vln. (Violin), Vla. (Viola), and Vc. (Violoncello). The A. Fl. staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The Vln. and Vla. staves have treble clefs. The Vc. staff has a bass clef and a key signature of one flat. The music consists of eighth and sixteenth notes with various fingerings indicated by numbers 5 and 6. There are also slurs and accents over some notes. A large, faint watermark 'PREVIEW' is visible across the page.

63

A. Fl.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

This block contains the musical notation for measures 63 and 64. It features the same four staves as the previous block: A. Fl., Vln., Vla., and Vc. The notation continues with similar rhythmic patterns and fingerings. The Vc. staff includes a triplet of eighth notes in measure 64. A large, faint watermark 'PREVIEW' is visible across the page.

65

A. Fl.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

This musical system covers measures 65 and 66. The A. Fl. part features a melodic line with eighth notes and rests, with fingerings 5, 6, 5, 6, and 5 indicated. The Vln. part has a similar melodic line with fingerings 6 and 5. The Vla. part has a melodic line with fingerings 5 and 6. The Vc. part has a bass line with eighth notes and rests, with a triplet of eighth notes indicated in measure 65. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 3/4.

67

A. Fl.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

This musical system covers measures 67 and 68. The A. Fl. part features a melodic line with eighth notes and rests, with fingerings 5 and 6 indicated. The Vln. part has a melodic line with eighth notes and rests, with fingerings 6 and 6 indicated. The Vla. part has a melodic line with eighth notes and rests, with fingerings 5 and 6 indicated. The Vc. part has a bass line with eighth notes and rests, with a triplet of eighth notes indicated in measure 67. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 3/4.

69

A. Fl.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

The musical score for measures 69-72 is written for four staves: A. Fl., Vln., Vla., and Vc. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/8. Measures 69-71 are marked with a '6' below the staff, indicating a sixteenth-note pattern. Measure 72 is marked with a '3' below the staff, indicating a triplet. The A. Fl. staff has a flat (Bb) in measure 70. The Vln. and Vla. staves have a flat (Bb) in measure 70. The Vc. staff has a sharp (F#) in measure 70. The Vc. staff has a double bar line at the end of measure 72.

V. सँभाल - *sambhāl* - to take care of

♩=60

71 "pretend" to play, as if you are activating the sound of the strings that emerges in mm. 80
no tone, but sound of the keys is welcome

A. Fl. *n*

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

75

A. Fl.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

79

A. Fl.

Vln.

Vla. *con sord. s.t.* II

Vc. *arco, con sord. s.t.* I

ppp *p* *ppp* *p* *ppp* *pp*

83

A. Fl.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

con sord.
s.t.

III

III

II

I

II-III

II-III

I

ppp *mp* *pp* *p* *pp* *pp* *pp* *pp*

87

A. Fl.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

III

II

III-II

IV-III

pp *pp* *p* *pp* *ppp* *p* *pp* *pp* *pp* *pp*

position embouchure as far away as possible from the mouthpiece
where whistle tones can still be produced, albeit soft, airy, unclear

91

A. Fl.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

pp *mp* *pp* *p*

ppp *ppp* *pp* *mp* *pp* *p*

pp *mp* *pp* *p*

pp *mp* *pp* *p*

I II

(w.t.)

95

A. Fl.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

ppp *mp* *pp* *mp* *pp*

mp *pp* *mp* *pp*

ppp *mp* *pp* *mp* *pp*

ppp *mp* *pp* *mp* *pp*

I II

(w.t.)

99

A. Fl.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

p *pp* *ppp* *pp* *ppp* *ppp* *pp* *ppp*

p *pp* *ppp* *ppp* *pp* *ppp*

p *pp* *ppp* *pp* *ppp*

p *pp* *ppp* *ppp* *pp* *ppp*

III

I II-III

III

II

3

3

3

3

III

(w.t.)

103

A. Fl.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

ppp *pppp*

III-II

IV-III

VI. ਛੱਡ - *chadd* - to let go

♩=96

senza sord.
m.s.t.
II →

Vln. 107 *mp* *always*

Vla. (con sord.)
m.s.p.
pp *always*
ghostly, messy, very little fundamental pitch

Vln. 110

Vla.

Vln. 113

Vla.

Vln. 116

Vla.