

words (from a friend)

for violin, cello, and singing fretless-electric-guitarist

~6-7'

(2024)

score

Text by Olivia Quail Pepper

music by

David Carlton Adams

You know that feeling when you get a work email that's just, like, so good?

★  **olivia pepper**
words
To: davidcarltonadams@gmail.com

May 2, 2020 at 12:13 AM

hi david,

i want to apologize for having been so distant and hard to reach. i do my best; i know you trust this to be true.

anyway, i decided to share fourteen small scraps from recent writings, things that suggested that they wanted to be with you. you may do whatever you wish with them. i am still working on our piece with angels; it's just so heavy and strange.

it is my sincerest hope that you are well.

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Honestly this commission came up at the last minute, and I didn't have any text to set...

except this was just so honest. and real. and *relatable*.

so here it is!

Commissioned by the Walden School (waldenschool.org)

Summer 2026 Young Musicians Program

Premiered by Kevin Rogers and Doug Machiz (of Friction Quartet) and David Adams

July 12, 2024

Louise Shonk Kelly Recital Hall, Dublin School, Dublin, NH

There are some funky alterations / accidentals in this piece!

They all come from the HEJI system (except the quarter sharp, which is pretty normal).

But HEJI is kind of a lot, and we're only using a few:

Sweeten



These just means that "sweet" Major third - the one you lower about 14¢

You're already doing these half the time - definitely on natural 5th harmonic

Quarter Tone



These just mean your everyday quarter tones - halfway between natural and whatever

Make it stanky



This is a funky one meaning lowered one septimal comma - that means the difference

between the seventh partial and an equal tempered minor 7th - equal to about - 31¢

Quarter Tone again... maybe a hair lower



This is the funkiest, a tridecimal comma - that means the difference between the thirteenth partial and a Major sixth - you lower it about 50-60¢

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olivia pepper

David Carlton Adams

streaming ♩ ≈ 112

Voice

Electric Guitar

Violin

Violoncello

rit.

V.

E. Gtr

Vln

Vc.

9 **molto rit.**.....

V.

E. Gtr

Vln

Vc.

qt

12 **A** ~7" ~11" ~5"

V.

little arrow: 14¢
(5).5[IV], (4).4[V] (1,2)[XII]

E. Gtr

p (*poco cre* - - - - -)

Vln

p

Vc.

senza vib.

(could try III.7.
IV.7)

p *pp* (*poco cre* - - - - -)

15 ~7" ~11" ~7" ~11"

V. 8 bends

E. Gtr - - - scen - - - - - do

50-60¢ lower than E

Vln can do 13. (8va) (ord. ok harm ok) III.5, IV.5

Vc. - - - - - scen - - - - - do

50-60¢ lower than A

19 **B**

V. 8 neck/mid pickups i want to a - po - lo - gize

E. Gtr omit first 2 *p* 5

Vln get big and round

Vc. *mf* *p*