

Sonata in F Major

for Soprano or Concert Ukulele

Michael Bemmels
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Sonata in F Major - Composer Notes

Oh my, what have I done?! A new three-movement classical sonata for ukulele now exists for humans on Earth. I must wonder: “Is this an attention-seeking gimmick, or a serious work of art?” The formal structures are there, the musical language is there, the traditional notated score is there... but, *the instrument...*! Why, the frets are so tiny, the range is so narrow, the sound is so cute like a toy! Could this instrument really be the vessel for a true piece of art?

But hold on, why am *I* asking *you*? As the composer, shouldn't it be *my* duty to explain the meaning of this creation? I ought to think and think and think, and select a set of thoughts that I happen to believe are true, and then use a variety of means to attempt to convince others to likewise believe in the validity of those thoughts. Perhaps I could employ machines to measure certain things about this Sonata, and generate “facts” using commonly accepted (though ultimately entirely human-fabricated) logical systems. From my own limited perspective as an adult human being, those measurements would appear to indicate some permanently existing qualities that could not possibly be disputed or refuted for the rest of eternity! As long as I prudently present thoughts that are not too dissimilar from those of my audience, then it might generally appear that those thoughts are indeed actually representing *the truth*!

Then again, I might think one thought while eating breakfast, and another entirely different one while driving to work. I might later talk to a 5-year old who somehow completely disembowels in my mind the lingering remembrances of advice I inherited from a professor long ago. Oh, what a lamentable task it is to attempt to expound a “true” and “objective” set of ideas! The very fabric of external reality is constantly changing, as is the fabric of my own internal reality. How could I cling to any particular experience or view, and sincerely believe that it is fundamentally and permanently true for all beings, at all times? How could I possibly present it to others as being *the truth*, when I myself don't even believe in it?!

We travel then, hopefully not into nihilistic dismay, but into an enlivening realization that we are all capable of *creating* the realities we experience. We strive not to *find irrefutable truth* (an absurd impossibility!), but to work to *create* our own realities in the way that seems most relevant, wise and meaningful at the time that we are creating it.

Though they are rather strange, it is my hope that this unconventional composition and written introduction are beneficial and relevant creations. At least, that's what I think today, at this particular moment in time (but who am I to say what reality *you* ought to make of it?).

Michael Bemmels

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Sonata in F Major

for Soprano or Concert Ukulele

Re-entrant tuning
G4-C4-E4-A4

I

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(2022)

Allegro moderato

Musical notation for measures 1-4. The piece is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (F major). The notation includes a treble clef and a guitar-style tablature below. Fingerings are indicated by letters *i*, *m*, and *i*. Dynamics include *mf*, *p*, and *tr* (trills). Measure numbers 1, 2, and 3 are shown above the staff.

Musical notation for measures 5-8. The notation includes a treble clef and a guitar-style tablature below. Measure numbers 5, 6, 7, and 8 are shown above the staff. A section marker 'III' is placed above measure 7.

Musical notation for measures 9-14. The notation includes a treble clef and a guitar-style tablature below. Measure numbers 10, 11, 12, 13, and 14 are shown above the staff. A section marker 'piv. I' is placed above measure 11. Dynamics include *mp*.

Musical notation for measures 15-19. The notation includes a treble clef and a guitar-style tablature below. Measure numbers 15, 16, 17, 18, and 19 are shown above the staff. Dynamics include *sf* and *mf*.

Musical notation for measures 20-24. The notation includes a treble clef and a guitar-style tablature below. Measure numbers 20, 21, 22, 23, and 24 are shown above the staff. Dynamics include *f* and *p*.

24

III-

T 3 3 2 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 2 0 0 2 3 5 3

A 3 1 3 2 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 1 3 0 2 3 5 3

B 3 1 3 2 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 2 0 0 2 3 5 3

28

Meno mosso

poco rall. mp

II

T 5 3 3 5 3 5 6 7 0 0 5 7 3 0 5 3 2 3 2 2 3 7

A 3 7 3 5 3 5 6 7 0 0 5 7 3 0 5 3 2 3 2 2 3 7

B 5 7 3 5 3 5 6 7 0 0 5 7 3 0 5 3 2 3 2 2 3 7

32

T 5 2 3 4 5 6 7 0 0 5 7 3 0 5 3 2 3 0 3 2 3 0

A 5 2 3 4 5 6 7 0 0 5 7 3 0 5 3 2 3 0 1 3 2 3 0

B 5 2 3 4 5 6 7 0 0 5 7 3 0 5 3 2 3 0 2 2 0 2 2

36

T 3 3 0 0 0 1 0 1 3 2 3 3 2 0 0 1 3 2 3 5 7 7 5 4 5 5 5 3 2 0

A 3 3 0 0 0 1 0 1 3 2 3 3 2 0 0 1 3 2 3 5 7 7 5 4 5 5 5 3 2 0

B 3 3 0 0 0 1 0 1 3 2 3 3 2 0 0 1 3 2 3 5 7 7 5 4 5 5 5 3 2 0

40

T 3 3 5 7 5 3 2 3 2 0 0 0 0 2 3 3 2 0 0 1 3 2 3 5 7 7 5 4

A 3 3 5 7 5 3 2 3 2 0 0 0 0 2 3 3 2 0 0 1 3 2 3 5 7 7 5 4

B 3 3 5 7 5 3 2 3 2 0 0 0 0 2 3 3 2 0 0 1 3 2 3 5 7 7 5 4

43

mf

T 5 5 5-3 2 3 3 3-2 3 3 2 3-5-2 3 3-2 3 3 2-3-5-2

A 5 5 1 0 0 1 1 1 2 3-5-2 3 3-2 3 3 2-3-5-2

B 0 0 0 2 0 0 0 2 2 0 0 0 0 2 2 0

46

rall.

T 3 2 3 2 3 5-2 3 3-2 1 1 3 3 1

A 0 0 0 1 0 0 1 0 0 0 2-3 3 0 0 0 0

B 0 0 0 2 0 0 2 0 0 0 3 3 0 0 0 0

47

Tempo I

mp

T 3 5 2 3 5-2 3 8 8 5-7 8 7 5 3 2 3 5

A 0 0 0 5-2 3 0 0 0 7 8 8 7 8 6-7-3-4 5 5 2 3 5

B 0 0 0 7 8 8 7 8 6-7-3-4 5 5 2 3 5

52

T 3 3 2 5 3-2 2 0 2 0 0 2 3 0 2 0 0

A 5 3-4 0-1-2 3 3 2 5 3 2 3 0 4 2 0 0 4

B 0 0 0 2 2 2 0 4 4 4 2 0 0 2 4

56

Meno mosso

p allargando f p

T 0 0 0 1 0 1 4 1 0 0 5 4 5 0 0 1

A 0 0 0 0 0 0 5 0 0 3 1 0 5 4 5 0 1

B 1 1 2 1 1 2 4 1 3 2 0 5 4 5 0 1

59

Musical notation for measures 59-62. Treble clef, key signature of one flat. Includes guitar tablature for strings T, A, and B. Dynamics include *mf*. Fingerings and techniques like triplets and bends are indicated.

63

Musical notation for measures 63-65. Treble clef, key signature of one flat. Includes guitar tablature for strings T, A, and B. Dynamics include *f*. Roman numerals IV and V are shown above the staff.

66

Musical notation for measures 66-69. Treble clef, key signature of one flat. Includes guitar tablature for strings T, A, and B. Dynamics include *p* and *mf*. Tempo I and *rall.* markings are present.

70

Musical notation for measures 70-74. Treble clef, key signature of one flat. Includes guitar tablature for strings T, A, and B. Trills (*tr*) are indicated.

75

Musical notation for measures 75-78. Treble clef, key signature of one flat. Includes guitar tablature for strings T, A, and B. Time signature changes to 2/4 and 4/4.

80

mp

T 1 0 3 1 0 1 3 0 1 0 3 0 3 0 1 0 3 0
A 1 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
B 2 3 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

84

sf *mf*

T 1 0 2 3 3 4 3 1 0 2 1 1 0 5 3 1 0 1 0 1 0
A 0
B 0

89

f *p*

T 3 0 3 1 0 0 1 3 0 3 1 0 2 1 2 2 1 2 2 1 3 3
A 0
B 0

94

Meno mosso

poco rall. *mp*

T 1 3 3 3 0 1 3 1 3 1 0 1 3 1 3 4 0 1 1 0 3 0
A 0
B 0

98

mp

T 1 0 1 3 1 0 1 0 0 1 0 3 4 0 1 2 3 4 0 1 1 0 3 0
A 0
B 2 0

102

I 4 1 -1 piv. I 2 4 1

T 1-5-3-1 0 1 0 0 2 0 0 1 3 0 5-7-8-8-7-5

A 1 0 0 1-3-1-0-1 2 1 5-4-5-2-0 1 0 1 0 0 1 3 0 5-7-8-8-7-5

B 2 0 0 0 2 5 4 5 2 0 2 0 0 2 0 0 3

106

1 4 -4 4 -4 V 1 -1 -1

T 3 3-5-7-8-10-12-12-10-9 10 10-8 7 8 8-10-12-10-8-7-8-7-5 5 5 0

A 5 6 8 8 10 10 8 5 5 8 8 6

B 5 9 10 7 6 7

109

I 4 -4

T 1 3 5-7-8-8-7-5 3 3-5-7-8-10-12-12-10-9 10 10-8 8 7 6 0

A 1 3 6-8 6 5 5 6 8 8 10 10 8 5 5 8 8 6

B 2 3 5 5 9 10 10 0

112

V -4 2 mf

T 8-7-5-8-5-8 7-8-10-7 8-8-7-5-8-5-8 7-8-10-7

A 5 5 6 6 5 5 6 6 5 5 6 6 5 5 6 6 5 5 6 6 5 5

B 5 5 0 5 5 0

114

V 4 2 3 V V -4 2

T 8 7 8 7 8 10-7-8-10-7-8

A 5 5 5 6 5 5 5 6 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5

B 5 5 5 7 5 5 5 7 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5

II

Andante maestoso

mp

p

a m i p

T
A
B

0 1 3 0 0 1 0 0 0 0 2 3 1 0 0 3

1 1 1 1 1 1 1 0 0 2 2 2 0 0 0 0

0 2 0 0 2 0 0 0 0 2 2 2 0 0 0 0

7

a m i p

i

T
A
B

0 0 3 3 3 1 1 0 1 1 0 1 1 0 2 2

1 1 2 0 0 0 2 0 2 2 3 0 2 1 0 0

2 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 2 2 2 1

13

a m i p

p

T
A
B

3 3 3 0 4 5 3 0 2 3 3 1 3 1 3

1 3 0 1 4 0 1 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

2 3 3 2 0 2 2 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1

18

III

3 I

T
A
B

1 1 1 3 3 4 3 3 1 2 3 3 4 3 3 4 3

1 0 0 4 6 4 4 3 3 1 0 0 0 4 4 4 1

1 1 1 5 5 5 4 3 0 0 0 3 5 5 5 1

24

III

T
A
B

3 4 4 3 4 4 3 4 4 3 4 4 3 3 3 3 3 5 7

1 0 6 6 4 6 4 6 4 6 4 3 3 3 4 6 6 8

1 0 0 0 0 0 0 5 3 3 3 5 0 0

30

a m i p *f* *piv. I* 3

T 8 6 4 3 4 3 3 3 8 3 0 0 1 3 3 5 3
 A 9 8 4 0 5 7 0 0 5 5 1 1 5 5 6 5
 B 8 8 5 0 0 0 2 0 5 5 0 2 5 5 5 5

36

a m i p 2/2 VIII 3 4 1

T 3 5 10 8 7 5 7 8 5 3 0 0 3 5
 A 6 6 10 10 8 8 8 5 5 5 1 0 0 6
 B 4 0 11 11 10 10 9 5 5 0 0 0 0 0

41

IV V V 3 3 3

T 5 3 5 5 3 5 5 3 5 5 3 3 5 7 8 7 5
 A 6 5 6 5 6 5 6 4 5 4 4 5 6 5 5 5 5
 B 0 0 0 5 0 5 4 5 4 4 5 0 0 0 7 6 7

47

a m i p *mp* 3 3 3

T 3 7-5 3 3 1 0 3 0 0 1 1 0
 A 0 5 7 0 0 0 3 1 1 1 3 3 0 0 0
 B 0 0 0 0 2 0 0 2 0 0 0 2 0 0 0

52

a m i p *p* *poco rall.* 3 3

T 0 1 0 0 3 0 1 0 1 0 3 1 0 1
 A 1 2 0 0 3 1 1 3 3 1 0 0 0 0
 B 0 2 0 0 2 2 0 0 2 0 0 0 0 2

III

Vivace

Musical notation for measures 1-6. The piece is in 3/4 time with a key signature of one flat. The tempo is marked 'Vivace'. The music features a melody in the treble clef and a bass line in the bass clef. The first measure has a dynamic marking of *f* and a fingering of 4. The second measure has a dynamic marking of *i*. The third measure has a dynamic marking of *i*. The fourth measure has a dynamic marking of *i*. The fifth measure has a dynamic marking of *i*. The sixth measure has a dynamic marking of *i*. The bass line consists of a series of chords and single notes.

Musical notation for measures 7-11. The music continues with a melody in the treble clef and a bass line in the bass clef. The seventh measure has a dynamic marking of *mp*. The eighth measure has a dynamic marking of *mp*. The ninth measure has a dynamic marking of *mp*. The tenth measure has a dynamic marking of *mp*. The eleventh measure has a dynamic marking of *mp*. The bass line consists of a series of chords and single notes.

Musical notation for measures 12-16. The music continues with a melody in the treble clef and a bass line in the bass clef. The twelfth measure has a dynamic marking of *mp*. The thirteenth measure has a dynamic marking of *mp*. The fourteenth measure has a dynamic marking of *mp*. The fifteenth measure has a dynamic marking of *mp*. The sixteenth measure has a dynamic marking of *mp*. The bass line consists of a series of chords and single notes.

Musical notation for measures 17-22. The tempo is marked 'Un poco meno mosso'. The music continues with a melody in the treble clef and a bass line in the bass clef. The seventeenth measure has a dynamic marking of *mp*. The eighteenth measure has a dynamic marking of *mp*. The nineteenth measure has a dynamic marking of *mp*. The twentieth measure has a dynamic marking of *mp*. The twenty-first measure has a dynamic marking of *mp*. The twenty-second measure has a dynamic marking of *mp*. The bass line consists of a series of chords and single notes.

Musical notation for measures 23-27. The music continues with a melody in the treble clef and a bass line in the bass clef. The twenty-third measure has a dynamic marking of *mp*. The twenty-fourth measure has a dynamic marking of *mp*. The twenty-fifth measure has a dynamic marking of *mp*. The twenty-sixth measure has a dynamic marking of *mp*. The twenty-seventh measure has a dynamic marking of *mp*. The bass line consists of a series of chords and single notes.

10
29 *mf* *poco rall.* *mp* *a tempo*

T 2 2 3 2 2-0-0 2 2 3 3 3-0-0 2 8 8 7 10-10-10
A 2 2 2 3 3 2 3 1 4 4 5 10-10-10
B 2 2 2 0 0 2 2 0 0 0 0 0 0

35

T 7 7 8 10-12-10 10 10-9-9-8 7 7-5-5-3 0 0 2
A 5 5 4 8 10 9 8 7 5 3 1 0 2
B 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

40 *allarg.* *f*

T 3 3 4 5 4 5 3 3 3 0 1 3 2 3 0
A 0 0 0 2 4 5 2 2 0 2 1 2 3 0
B 2 2 2 2 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

45 *con rubato* *Vivace* *f*

T 0 2 0 0 0 0-1-2 3 0 2 3 1 0 1 0 3 3 3 3 3
A 0 2 0 0 0 0-1-2 3 0 2 3 1 0 1 0 3 3 3 3 3
B 0 2 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

51

T 3 1 1 3 0 3 1 1 3 1 4 1 3 3 3 3 1 1 3 1 1 3 0
A 1 1 3 0 3 1 1 3 1 4 1 3 3 3 3 1 1 3 1 1 3 0
B 2 2 2 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

57

Musical notation for measures 57-62. Treble clef, key signature of one flat. Includes dynamics *mp* and accents. Fingering numbers 0-6 are shown below the staff.

63

Musical notation for measures 63-68. Treble clef, key signature of one flat. Includes dynamics *p* and *f*, and markings *pont.* and *ord.*. Fingering numbers 0-4 are shown below the staff.

69

Musical notation for measures 69-74. Treble clef, key signature of one flat. Includes dynamics *f* and a second ending bracket labeled **II**. Fingering numbers 0-5 are shown below the staff.

75

Musical notation for measures 75-79. Treble clef, key signature of one flat. Includes dynamics *f* and a second ending bracket labeled **II**. Fingering numbers 0-4 are shown below the staff.

80

Musical notation for measures 80-84. Treble clef, key signature of one flat. Includes dynamics *f* and a repeat sign at the end. Fingering numbers 0-5 are shown below the staff.

85

mf

T: 0 1 0 4 0 4 5 6 0 0 1 2 1 3 1 1 6 6 8 6 5
 A: 0 4 5 6 0 0 1 2 1 3 1 1 6 6 8 6 5
 B: 0

89

mf

T: 4 0 4 1 0 0 1 0 4 0 0 1 0 4 0 4 5 6 0 0 1 1 0 0 0 1
 A: 0
 B: 0

94

mf

T: 0 1 0 5 3 0 0 1 4 0 0 1 3 1 2 2 1 3 5 3 0 0 5 7 3
 A: 2 0 1 0 5 3 0 0 1 4 0 0 1 3 1 2 2 1 3 5 3 0 0 5 7 3
 B: 0

99

rall. *f* *a tempo*

T: 2 1 3 5 3 0 0 5 7 10 2 1 5 4 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3
 A: 2 1 3 5 3 0 0 5 7 10 2 1 5 4 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3
 B: 0

104

f

T: 3 1 1 3 0 3 1 1 3 1 4 1 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3
 A: 1 1 3 0 3 1 1 3 1 4 1 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3
 B: 0

110

Musical score for measures 110-114. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one flat. It features a melodic line with slurs and accents, and a dynamic marking of *mp*. The bottom staff shows guitar fretting for Treble (T), Alto (A), and Bass (B) positions, with fingerings and a barre line.

115

Musical score for measures 115-119. The top staff continues the melodic line with a dynamic marking of *mf*. The bottom staff shows guitar fretting with fingerings and a barre line.

120

Musical score for measures 120-124. The top staff includes dynamic markings *p*, *ord.*, and *f*, and a *V* marking above the final measure. The bottom staff shows guitar fretting with fingerings and a barre line.