Composition Assignment 2: Short Piece for Solo Violin

Due: Friday January 28

I. Objectives:
1) To gain experience in writing for violin
2) To practice writing music in ABA form

II. Specifications:
1) For unaccompanied violin
2) Duration: Between 45 seconds and 1 min. 30 seconds
3) Form: Ternary form (A B A). Return of "A" material may be altered (A B A')
4) Must be idiomatic for the violin
5) May be in any style; however it is suggested that you try 20th or 21st century style
6) All appropriate slurs, expressions and technical directions should be written in
7) Should use two or more of the following techniques:
   a. pizzicato
   b. double stops
   c. natural or artificial harmonics
   d. sul ponticello
   e. sul tasto
   f. tremolo
   g. glissando
8) Must be very legible and adhere to standard notation*

III. Grading criteria:
1) Formal and musical logic
2) Originality
3) Unity of work
4) Variation, contrast and/or development
5) Effectiveness in using the instrument
6) Playing practicality
7) Fulfillment of specifications enumerated in section II, above
8) Appropriateness of markings (technical, bowing and style markings)
9) Notation correctness

IV. References:

V. Suggested listening:
Bach, 6 Sonatas and partitas for violin solo, BWV 1001-1006
Bartók, Sonata for solo violin
Hindemith, Sonata for violin solo, op. 11 no. 6
Hindemith, Sonatas for violin solo, op. 31, nos. 1 and 2

* For this and other assignments, put your name on all pages