

Meditation of a Pilgrim

for chamber ensemble

Grace Ma
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Instrumentation

Flute (doubles piccolo)

Clarinet in Bb

Percussion (Vibraphone, Medium & small
suspended cymbals, Bass drum)

Piano

Violin

Cello

Inspired by the composer's newfound interest in religion, "*Meditation of a Pilgrim*" outlines the progression of a pilgrimage, from calm, stately meditation to revelation and ecstasy. Also partially inspired by Gauguin's painting "*Vision after the Sermon: Jacob wrestling with the Angel*" depicting a religious scene in the painter's newfound personal style, the piece builds upon a traditional harmonic template vibrant colors, intense fervour, and agitated motion. Progressing from a quasi-Eastern atmosphere of more traditional sonorities to a refreshing array of contemporary techniques, the piece echoes Gauguin's use of Japanese print techniques, mixed with his bold Western artistic innovations. The 'walking' pilgrim from the opening undergoes intense spiritual transformation, leading him/her to a new realization of the modern world during his/her meditation. The realization is both exalting and astonishing for the pilgrim, who by the end fervently embraces this revelation.

Duration: c. 5 minutes

Meditation of a Pilgrim

Score

for chamber ensemble

Grace Ma

Largo, chantlike (♩ = 60)

The score is for a chamber ensemble and consists of six staves:

- Flute (doubles piccolo):** Treble clef, key signature of two flats (B-flat major/D minor), common time. The staff contains whole rests throughout the piece.
- Clarinet in B♭:** Treble clef, key signature of two flats. The staff contains whole rests throughout the piece.
- Percussion:** Treble clef, key signature of two flats. The staff contains a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. The first two measures are marked *mp* and the last two measures are marked *p*. The tempo/mood is *Vib. religioso*. There are dynamic hairpins and accents throughout.
- Piano:** Grand staff (treble and bass clefs), key signature of two flats. The right hand plays a melody of eighth notes, marked *mp* and *legatissimo e cantabile*. The left hand contains whole rests. There is a dynamic hairpin and an accent in the final two measures, marked *p*.
- Violin:** Treble clef, key signature of two flats. The staff contains whole rests throughout the piece.
- Cello:** Bass clef, key signature of two flats. The staff contains whole rests throughout the piece, except for the final measure which has a single note marked *legato* and *f*.

7

Fl.

B♭ Cl.

Perc.

Pno.

Vln.

Vlc.

legato espress.

mf

simile

piu espressivo

pizz.

f

13

Fl.

B♭ Cl.

Perc.

Pno.

Vln.

Vlc.

mf

f

poco rit. (flutter tongue)

a tempo

G. P.

G. P.

(to cymbals) G. P.

G. P.

G. P.

sul tasto

f

Picc. normale

19

Fl. *mf*

B♭ Cl. *mf*

Perc.

Pno. *mf* molto espressivo con grazia

Vln. arco con sord.

Vlc. normale *mf* *f*

24

Fl. rit. *f*

B♭ Cl. *f*

Perc. Med. sus. cym. niente *f* *l. v.*

Pno. *cresc.* *piu brillante* *f* *sfz sempre con ped.*

Vln. *f*

Vlc. *f*

8va

Tempo piu mosso

4

29

Fl.

B \flat Cl.

Perc.

Pno.

Vln.

Vlc.

mf

mf

f

B.D. Small sus. cym. l. v.

p

mf

mf

32

Fl.

B \flat Cl.

Perc.

Pno.

Vln.

Vlc.

mf

f

f

8^{vb}

36 Flute *f*

B♭ Cl. *f*

Perc.

Pno. *f* *8va* *15ma* *mf*

Vln. *f*

Vlc. *f*

39 Fl. (flutter tongue) *mp*

B♭ Cl. *poco accel. & ritard.* *mf* (flutter tongue) *mp*

Perc.

Pno. *mp*

Vln. *mf* *espress. gliss. gliss.* *mp*

Vlc. *mf*

6 ⁴⁴

Fl. *normale melodiously*

B♭ Cl. *normale cantabile* *mf* *mp* *(flutter tongue)* *mf*

Perc.

Pno. *mp* *8th note pulse poco ad lib.* *p*

Vln. *mp*

Vlc. *mp*

50

Fl. *mp* *mf* *(flutter tongue)*

B♭ Cl. *p* *mf*

Perc.

Pno. *p* *sfz* *mf*

Vln. *p* *f* *p* *mf*

Vlc. *p* *fp* *mf*

56

Fl.

B♭ Cl.

Perc.

Pno.

Vln.

Vlc.

f

f

B.D.

p

f

f

8^{vb}-

Moderato con passione (♩ = 96)

63

Fl.

B♭ Cl.

Perc.

Pno.

Vln.

Vlc.

ff

(to Vibraphone)

f

5

ff

ff

8^{vb}-

brillante

ff

8

65

Fl.

B \flat Cl.

Perc.

Pno.

Vln.

Vlc.

sfz

5

67

Fl.

B \flat Cl.

Perc.

Pno.

Vln.

Vlc.

8va

misterioso

p < *sfz* >

77

Fl.

B♭ Cl.

Perc.

misterioso

8^{va}

Pno.

p *sfz* *sfz*

Vln.

Vlc.

81

accel. molto

a tempo

G. P.

Fl.

G. P.

B♭ Cl.

G. P.

Perc.

G. P.

Pno.

molto cresc. *f* *sfz* *ff*

G. P.

Vln.

G. P.

Vlc.

84

Fl. G. P. Picc. *ff*

B♭ Cl. G. P.

Perc. G. P.

Pno. *pp* *ff*
(c. 5" until resonance dissipates)

Vln. G. P.

Vlc. G. P.

c. 7" until piano resonance dissipates
(flutter tongue)

88

Fl. G. P. *pp* *p*
(flutter tongue)

B♭ Cl. G. P. *ff* *pp*

Perc. G. P. Vib. *pp* *p*

Pno. G. P. *pp* *p*

Vln. G. P.

Vlc. G. P. *p*

12

Fl. ¹⁰⁰ *mp*

B♭ Cl. (flutter tongue) *p*

Perc.

Pno. ¹⁰⁰

Vln. ¹⁰⁰ *mp* *sul tasto*

Vlc.

Fl. ¹⁰⁴ *mp* Flute *5*

B♭ Cl.

Perc. *mp* (to cymbals)

Pno. ¹⁰⁴

Vln. ¹⁰⁴

Vlc.

107

Fl. *mf*

B♭ Cl.

107

Perc. *Med. sus. cym.*

107

Pno. *mf*

107

Vln. *normale* *mf*

Vlc. *mf*

109

Fl. *mf*

B♭ Cl.

109

Perc.

109

Pno. *mf*

109

Vln. *mf*

Vlc. *mf*

c. 10"; until exchange between piano, cello & flute become very frenzied
 alternate accented staccato notes, start slow & accel. dramatically, becoming more ferocious & larger in range.
 Try alternate with piano & cello

111

Fl.

f

6

repeat in fixed tempo

fff

3

B♭ Cl.

f

repeat in fixed tempo

fff

3

Perc.

111

Small sus. cym.

f

3

B.D.

3

f

Pno.

111

f

play indicated cluster in any octave, start slow & accel. dramatically, becoming more ferocious & larger in range. Try alternate between hands & flute & cello

15^{ma}

ff

molto brillante

fff

3

8^{vb}

Vln.

111

f

5

repeat in fixed tempo

alternate accented staccato notes, start slow & accel. dramatically, becoming more ferocious & larger in range. Try alternate with flute & piano

fff

3

Vlc.

f

repeat in fixed tempo

fff

3