

JOHN AYLWARD

MERCURY

*for flute, clarinet, violin and cello*



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for alto / bass flute, clarinet / bass clarinet, violin and cello

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*“If a straight line is the shortest distance between two fated and inevitable points, digressions will lengthen it; and if these digressions become so complex, so tangled and tortuous, so rapid as to hide their own tracks, who knows—perhaps death may not find us, perhaps time will lose its way, and perhaps we ourselves can remain concealed in our shifting hiding places.”*

--Carlo Levi

*“Mercury, with his winged feet, light and airborne, astute, agile, adaptable, free and easy, established the relationships of the gods among themselves and those between the gods and men, between universal laws and individual destinies, between the forces of nature and the forms of culture, between the objects of the world and all the thinking subjects.”*

-- Italo Calvino

Notes:

Tempi are approximate.

Accidentals are used in the traditional manner. Courtesy accidentals are sometimes used.

Notes on non-traditional instrumental techniques are described in the score.

The score is not transposed for the instruments.

Strings:

SP and MSP = varying degrees of sul ponticello.

Natural harmonics are used throughout. Please use the harmonic indications used (either string indications or noteheads with nodes).



# MERCURY

John Aylward  
(2014)

♩ = 72 *Sospeso*

The musical score is divided into two systems. The first system includes parts for Flute (labeled 'Bass Flute'), Clarinet in Bb, Violin, and Cello. The second system includes parts for Flute, Bass Clarinet, Violin, and Cello. The score is in 4/4 time and features a key signature of one flat. The tempo is marked as 'Sospeso' with a quarter note equal to 72 beats per minute. Performance instructions include 'wide vibrato', 'pp very breathy', 'molto delicato very rhythmic, precise', and 'p'. The Violin part includes first and second endings and a glissando marked with '(gliss)\*\*'. The Cello part includes a sharp, short crescendo marked with '\*'.

\* sharp, short, decisive crescendos within dynamic indicated

\*\* gentle tenuto when arriving at notated harmonics during glissandi

5

Fl.

B♭ Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

(gliss generate fluctuating harmonics)

7

Fl.

B♭ Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

I.

9

Fl.

B♭ Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

wide vibrato

*poco rit...* *a tempo*

12 *norm.*

Fl.  
B♭ Cl.  
Vln.  
Vc.

14

Fl.  
B♭ Cl.  
Vln. (generate fluctuating harmonics)  
Vc. (generate fluctuating harmonics)

*poco rit...*

17

Fl. *mp* *f* *p*  
B♭ Cl. *mp* *f*  
Vln. *mp* *f* *p* IV.  
Vc. *mp* *f* *p* I. III.

*a tempo poco eccitato*

19

Fl. wide vibrato *pp* *espr.* (wide vibrato)

B♭ Cl. *p* wide vibrato

Vln. *mp* MSP *p* < *f* *p* < *f* *pp* *sotto voce* (very scratchy) *f* *p*

Vc. MSP *pp* *sotto voce* (very scratchy) < *f* > *pp*

23 (wide vib. slow, rhythmically asymmetrical bisbigliando)

Fl.

B♭ Cl. (wide vib. slow, rhythmically asymmetrical bisbigliando) *pp* *espr.*

23 norm. MSP *sotto voce*

Vln.

Vc. *f* *p* III.

27

Fl.

B♭ Cl.

Vln. norm. I.

Vc. III.



30

Fl.

B♭ Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

MSP

IV.

norm. I.

MSP

*f*

*p*

*f*

*p*

33

Fl.

B♭ Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

II.

36

Fl.

B♭ Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

SP

IV. norm.

MSP

*mp*

*f*

*p*

*ff*

*p cantabile*

*mp*

*f*

*pp sotto voce*

some breath and key clicks. no pitch

39

Fl. *TR*

B♭ Cl.

Vln. *SP (bring out constantly changing harmonics)*

Vc. *II.*

42

Fl. *fp*, *f*, *mp*, *f*

B♭ Cl. *f espr.*, *mp*

Vln. *f*, *p*, *MSP*

Vc. *II. I.*, *p*, *f*, *p sotto voce*

45

Fl. *p*, *f*, *p*, *f*, *p*

B♭ Cl. *mf*

Vln. *f*

Vc. *f*, *p*, *norm.*

48 *wide vibrato*

Fl. *f* *p*

B♭ Cl. *f* *p*

Vln. *f*

Vc. *p* *f* *p* *f* *p*

norm. MSP

*poco accel....*

52 *norm.*

Fl. *f* *p* *f*

B♭ Cl. *p*

Vln. *p* *mp*

Vc. *f* II. III. IV.

*a tempo Cantabile Sostenuto*

55

Fl. *f*

B♭ Cl. *f*

Vln. *f* *p cantabile*

Vc. *f* *p cantabile* poco non vib. III. I.

58

Fl.

B♭ Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

*p*

*espr.*

62

Alto Flute

Fl.

B♭ Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

*p*

*sotto voce (molto legato)*

*mp*

66

Fl.

B♭ Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

70

Fl.

B♭ Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

non vib.

73

Fl.

B♭ Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

*p sotto voce*

*p*

75

Fl.

B♭ Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

77

Fl.

B♭ Cl.

*p*

Vln.

*mp*

Vc.

*mp*

79

Fl.

B♭ Cl.

*mf*

Vln.

Vc.

(pulsing)

81

Fl.

B♭ Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

84

Fl. Bass Flute

B♭ Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

*p*

long, intense bow strokes while detuning

♩ = 96 *Tranquilo (with erratic interruptions), accel...*

88

Fl.

B♭ Cl. Bass Clarinet

Vln.

Vc.

*f* rough, erratic  
always blended w/ cello

detune more inbetween interruptions

*f* rough, erratic  
always blended w/ clarinet

♩ = 104

92

Fl.

B♭ Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

slap tongue

pizz.

*p*

(slide)

96

Fl.

B♭ Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

*f*

*p*

*f*

*p < f*

100

Fl.

B♭ Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

*f*

*p*

*mf*

*mp*

*p*

*mf*

*mf*

103

Fl.

B♭ Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

*ppp*

*p*

*pp*

*p*

*mp*

*mp <*

*arco*

*pizz.*

*arco III.*

*wide vibrato*



(slow bisbigliando)

106

Fl. *p*

B♭ Cl. *f* *mp espr.* *p* *mp*

Vln.

Vc. *f* *mp* *p*

109

Fl. *f* *p* *mp*

B♭ Cl. *f* *p*

Vln. *mp* *f*

Vc. *f* *p* (generate fluctuating harmonics)

112

Fl. *f* *mp*

B♭ Cl. (slowly changing, soft multiphonics throughout) *mf* *p* *mf*

Vln. (slowly changing indeterminate harmonics throughout) *f*

Vc. *mf* *p* *mf*

TR

116

TR

Fl. *f*

B♭ Cl. *p*

Vln.

Vc. *p*

120

Fl. *p* *f* *p*

B♭ Cl.

Vln. *p* *f* *p*

Vc.

strum

124

Fl. *p*

B♭ Cl.

Vln. *p* SP non vib.

Vc. norm. *mp espr.*

*poco accel...*

128

Fl.

B♭ Cl.

Vln. *pizz.*

Vc. *p* *SP* *norm.* (generate fluctuating harmonics)

♩ = 72 *Tranquillo, Maestoso*

132

Fl. *wide vibrato* *p*

B♭ Cl. *wide vibrato* *p* (*molto legato*)

Vln. (MSP. Generate 4th partial, octave + 10th above) *mp*

Vc. *mp*

136 *poco a poco non vib.* *non vib.*

Fl. *mp* *p*

B♭ Cl. *mp* *p*

Vln. *poco sul pont.* *mf*

Vc. *p*

*very rhythmic, with a bouyant feeling*

140

Fl. *f* *pp* *mf*

B $\flat$  Cl. *blend with violin* *f* *pp* *p* *mf* (*molto legato*)

Vln. *blend with clarinet* *ppf* *pp* *mf*

Vc. *f* *pp* *mf*

144

Fl. *pp* *mf* *mf*

B $\flat$  Cl. *pp* *f* *pp* *f*

Vln. *pp* *f* *ppf*

Vc. *pp* *mf*

148

Fl. *f* *p* *f* *p* *f*

B $\flat$  Cl. *f* *p* *f* *p* *f*

Vln. *f* *p* *f* *mp* *f*

Vc. *f* *p* *f* *p* *f*

♩. = ♩ = 96

*con moto*

152

Fl. *p* (*molto legato*)

B♭ Cl. *p* (*molto legato*)

Vln. *p*  
norm.

Vc. *p*

156

Fl.

B♭ Cl.

Vln. *mp*

Vc.

160

Fl. *f*

B♭ Cl. *f*

Vln. *f*

Vc. *mp* *f* *espr.*

long, intense bow strokes while detuning

165

Fl.

B♭ Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

*pp*

*pp*

poco sul pont.

norm.

poco a poco sul pont.

SP

*mp*

*f*

170

Fl.

B♭ Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

MSP (generate fluctuating harmonics)

*f*

*f*

*f*

♩ = 72

174

Fl.

B♭ Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

MSP

*p* < *f* *espr.*

*p* < *f*

*p* < *f*

*p* < *f*

*p* < *f*

*p* < *f*

*p* < *f*

*p* < *f*

poco sul pont.

*p* sotto voce

178

Fl.

B♭ Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

*f* *p < f* *p < f* *p < f* *p < f* *f* *p < f*

182

Fl.

B♭ Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

Alto Flute

*f* *p*

poco sul pont.

*f espr.*

*f* *p < f*

185

Fl.

B♭ Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

*mp* *p*

*p* *mp* *pp*

*mp < f* *mp espr.* *poco a poco MSP* *< fp < f*

188

Fl.

B♭ Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

*p* *fp* *f* *f*

191

Fl.

B♭ Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

*fp* *p* *fp* *f* *mf* *fp* *f*

194

Fl.

B♭ Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

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





198

Fl. *mp* (*molto legato*)

B $\flat$  Cl. *mp* (*molto legato*)

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

Vc. *mp*

201

Fl.

B $\flat$  Cl. *mp*

Vln. *mp*

Vc. SP (bring out constantly changing harmonics)

204

Fl.

B $\flat$  Cl. *f* *p* *f*

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

Vc. SP (bring out constantly changing harmonics) *f* *p*

208

Fl.

B♭ Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

*mp*

*mp*

*mp*

SP (bring out constantly changing harmonics)

212

Bass Flute

Fl.

B♭ Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

*p*

*p*

*p*

*senza rit...*

216

Fl.

B♭ Cl.

Vln.

Vc.