

This Fleeting World

for mezzo-soprano and two celli

(Sanskrit text from the Diamond Sutra)

Peter Hatch (2003)

♩ = 25-30 (Each beat is 2.5"-3" long and felt as 3/4 bar (in one) at ♩ = 75-90) - 4 -

Mezzo-soprano

Cello 1

Cello 2

Start water fountain during the initial cello 1 gesture. The fountain is heard alone for approximately 40" to 1 minute. It runs through the whole piece (until a stop is indicated.)

I (natural harmonics only)

mp <>

III I

First system of musical notation. It consists of three staves: a treble clef staff at the top, a violin staff in the middle, and a bass clef staff at the bottom. The treble staff has two notes with a sharp sign and a dot, with a finger number 'I' above the first. The violin staff has two notes with finger numbers 'II', 'III', and 'I' above them. The bass staff has two notes with dynamic markings $\langle \rangle$ and $\rangle \langle$.

Second system of musical notation. It consists of three staves. The first measure is marked with a box containing the letter 'A'. The treble staff has notes with fingerings 'I', 'II', and 'IV'. The violin staff has a note with a dot and the instruction '(harmonic gliss.)' next to it. The bass staff has notes with dynamic markings $\langle \rangle$ and $\rangle \langle$. A box highlights a rhythmic pattern in the bass staff consisting of groups of notes marked with 'x'.

* Col legno battuto (no hair!) Bow should strike II and/or III (ad lib) strings only within a distance of the end of the fingerboard. (n.b. slight pitch variations.) Strings are 'deadened'.
 Play groups of 1, 2, 3 and 5 sixteenth notes at $\text{♩} = \text{ca } 160-180$; spaces between grouping ad lib.
 Notations indicated in boxes are only approximations: perform ad lib within the above instructions.

Third system of musical notation. It consists of three staves. The treble staff has notes with fingerings 'IV' and 'IV'. The violin staff has notes with dynamic markings $\langle \rangle$ and $\rangle \langle$. The bass staff has notes with dynamic markings $\langle \rangle$ and $\rangle \langle$. Boxes highlight rhythmic patterns in the bass staff consisting of groups of notes marked with 'x'.

The first system consists of three staves. The top staff is a vocal line with a treble clef, containing a sequence of notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, followed by a rest. The middle staff is a vocal line with a treble clef, containing a sequence of notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, followed by a rest. The bottom staff is a guitar accompaniment line with a treble clef, featuring a series of chords marked with 'x' and slurs, indicating a specific playing technique.

B

(continuous glissandi - do not sustain any pitch)

The second system consists of three staves. The top staff is a vocal line with a treble clef, starting with the dynamic marking *mp* and the lyrics "Ta - - - ra - - -". The middle staff is a vocal line with a treble clef, containing the lyrics "ka - - -". The bottom staff is a guitar accompaniment line with a treble clef, featuring a series of chords marked with 'x' and slurs, indicating a specific playing technique. A Roman numeral "IV" is placed above the bass line in the second measure.

Begin striking strings at gradually further and further towards and away from bridge (and points in between), producing a wider range of pitches.

The third system consists of three staves. The top staff is a vocal line with a treble clef, starting with the dynamic marking *mp* and the lyrics "Ti - - - mi - - -". The middle staff is a vocal line with a treble clef, containing the lyrics "ram - - -". The bottom staff is a guitar accompaniment line with a treble clef, featuring a series of chords marked with 'x' and slurs, indicating a specific playing technique. A Roman numeral "IV" is placed above the bass line in the second measure, and the instruction "(simile)" is placed above the vocal line in the third measure.

di - - po - - - - -

ma - - ya - - - - -

* Spiccato/harmonics - Play staccatissimo on any string ad lib while sliding hand continuously up and down touching all four strings lightly. Random harmonics as well as many 'dead' notes will sound.

a - - - va - - - shya - - - ya - - -

bud - dbu - - - dang - - - - -

su - - - pi - - - nang - - - - -

su - - - pi - - - nang - - - - -

vid - - - - yud - - - - -

* Add occasional short 'undertone' gesture on III string.
 (Use excessively heavy bow pressure and slow bow speed)

a - - - bhrañ - - - - - cha - - - - -

IV

* Spiccato/harmonics - Play staccatissimo on any string ad lib while sliding hand continuously up and down touching all four strings lightly. Random harmonics as well as many 'dead' notes will sound.

Cello 1: * Col legno battuto (no hair!) Bow should strike II and/or III (ad lib) strings only within a distance of the end of the fingerboard. (n.b. slight pitch variations.) Strings are 'deadened'.
 Play groups of 1, 2, 3 and 5 sixteenth notes at = ca 160-180; spaces between grouping ad lib.
 Notations indicated in boxes are only approximations: perform ad lib within the above instructions.

Mixing spiccato and battuto:

E (Chanting - freely)

Evan drashtavang sangskritam

pp < *mp* > *pp* < *mp* > *pp* < *mp* > *pp* < *mp* > *pp* < *mp* > *pp* < *mp* > (simile)

mp > *pp* < *mp* > (simile)

pp < *mp* > *pp* < *mp* > *pp* < *mp* > (simile)

* (continuous glissandi - do not sustain any pitch)

Evan drashtavang sangskritam

Evan drashtavang sangskritam

F (Slowly leaving hall, passing by the front of the audience)

sul pont. normale sul pont. normale

sul pont. normale sul pont.

(Offstage and far away - heard only faintly in hall.) **G**

Ta - - ra - ka Ta - - - - ra ka - -

sul pont.

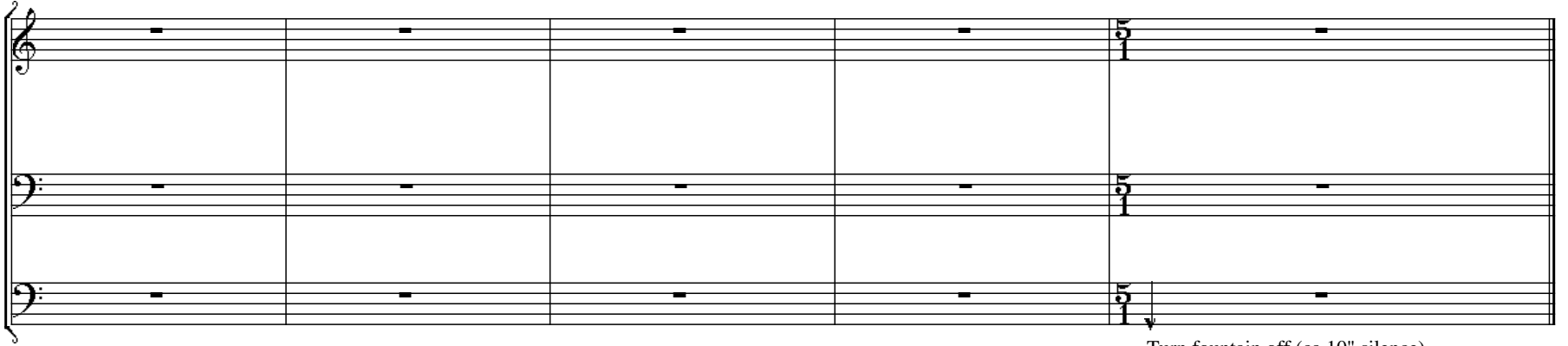
ti - - mi - - - ran - - - - di - - - - po - - - -

ma - - - ya - - - - - va - - - shya - - ya - - - bu - - dbu - - dang - - - - - su - - pi - - - nang - - - - -

* Begin inserting natural harmonics (any string) ad lib, sustaining them only long enough to have them sound. Use a great variety of them, all with a down bow.

*Use more and more harmonics

vi - - dyud - - - - - a - - - bhrañ - - - - - cha - - - - -



Turn fountain off (ca 10" silence)

Sanskrit transliteration:

taṛakā-timiram̐ dipo
māyā-avaśyāya budbudam̐
supinam̐ vidyud abhram̐ ca
evam̐ draṣṭavyam̐ saṃskṛtam̐.

*Vajraccedika Prajnaparamita: edited and translated by Edward Conze,
(Roma: Istituto Italiano per il Medio ed Esterno Oriente, 2nd ed, 1974)*

English:

As a star at dawn, a bubble in a stream,
a flash of lightning in a summer cloud,
a flickering lamp, a phantom and a dream.
Thus shall you think of this fleeting world.

From the Diamond Sutra
(translation adapted from Thich Nhat Hanh)

Phonetic translation:

ta-ra-kā-ti-mi-ran di-po
mā-yāa-va-shyā-ya bud-bu-dang
su-pi-nang vi-dyud a-bhrañ cha
e-van drasht-av-yang sang-sk(ri)tam.

Pronunciation key:

1. Vowels a, e and i are short (ah, eh, i), o and u are long.
2. Vertical dashes indicate vowels which are stressed; those with a line over them are held longer than the other vowels.
3. (ri) indicates a slightly rolled r.

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