

Dust, Mirror, and Bodhi Tree
for 2 piccolos and piano
Op. 19

commissioned by Hong Kong Piccolo Association

Lance Mok
London: March 2023

ca. 5 mins

「菩提本無樹
明鏡亦非臺
本來無一物
何處惹塵埃」
— 六祖惠能

The beginning of all human sufferings—the pain of life and eternal reincarnation—is the slightest thread of obsessive thoughts. If one sees through the façade of materialistic manifestations of the metaphysical reality, obsession (dust) and the sufferings it brings will have no solidity to cling to in one's heart (clear mirror) and enlightenment (Bodhi tree). Such was the essence of the Buddhist patriarch Huineng's famous gatha, from which the title of the work *Dust, Mirror, and Bodhi Tree* was derived.

Exploiting the purity in the interval of perfect fifths and the timbre of the piccolos especially in their lower registers, the piece opens with a stoic calmness, only to be disturbed by a dissonant figure that creeps into the texture and becomes growingly obsessive. Through much bitter darkness, the piccolos eventually soar into awakening and liberation. Calmness is reinstated, perhaps with more wisdom this time, while the cosmic clockwork, as it always has been, remains uninterrupted.

The work was premiered by flautists Ivy Chuang and Karen Wong, and the composer in All Saints Church, High Wycombe, United Kingdom on 20th March 2023.

Instrumentation: 2 piccolos and piano

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Lento, molto tranquillo ♩ = 66

Piccolo 1

Piccolo 2

Piano

Ped.

8.....

4

poco

p

pp

6/4

7/4

7/4

7/4

7/4

7/4

8.....

(Ped.)

28

5

mf

p

30

mf

mp

3

33

6

p

mf

p

f

Ped.

Musical score for measures 45-48. The score is written for piano and includes a 7/4 time signature. It features a complex melodic line in the right hand with triplets and sixteenth-note runs, and a more rhythmic accompaniment in the left hand. Dynamics range from *mp* to *f*. Measure 45 starts with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The piece concludes with a 4/4 time signature.

Musical score for measures 47-50. The score is written for piano and includes a 4/4 time signature. It features a complex melodic line in the right hand with sixteenth-note runs and a more rhythmic accompaniment in the left hand. Dynamics range from *mp* to *f*. Measure 47 starts with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The piece concludes with a 4/4 time signature. A pedal point is indicated at the bottom right.

8.....
Ped. _____