

Robert Percy

...trapped
in the amber
of this moment...

for solo classical guitar

duration 11'

This piece was composed for
and premiered by
guitarist
Johannes Möller
at the 2006 Deal Festival

Programme Note

The music, after rushing too hastily to a climax, starts afresh with greater composure; conflict gradually ensues.

The piece features rasgueado, various tremolo and trill techniques and, in particular, a pervasive use of natural harmonics which change according to detunings which occur throughout the course of the piece, beginning and ending on the same, conventional, E B G D A E tuning.

The title of the piece comes from Kurt Vonnegut's novel *Slaughterhouse-Five* and corresponds with the temporal predicament of humans from the point of view of Tralfamadorians. In this piece, as well as referring to temporal implications of live and recorded music and speech and to the temporality of certain of the piece's musical materials, the title also relates the capturing of a voice—that of Noël Coward—within the piece: transcribed fragments from a recording of Coward's *A Marvellous Party* appear on the guitar at various stages throughout. So it goes.

...trapped in the amber of this moment...

for solo classical guitar

Robert Percy

2003

- Unless where indicated, notes are always written at sounding pitch (other than the usual 8ve).
- Allow sympathetic vibration where possible.

$\text{♩} = 76$
*sempre l.v.**

ppp

mp f mp pp

p mp f mp > pp

vib. *slide* *Speechlike bend*

mp > mf p mf

p mf > p mf

Speechlike vib. *slide* *IV (norm.)*

pp < mf > p mf p < mf p <

(norm.) VII X VII XII dampen

mf p < mf > p f

*Applies to natural harmonics throughout (as far as is possible).

[Tuning: 5-Bb]

(tuning check*)

Musical staff 27-30. Measure 27 starts with a treble clef and a 6/8 time signature. Fingering includes VII, XII, XII, and a circled 5. A 'peg gliss.' is indicated. Measure 28 has a circled 5. Measure 29 has a circled 5. Measure 30 has a circled 5. A 'detune' instruction with an arrow points from the circled 5 in measure 28 to the circled 5 in measure 30.

accel. ----- $\text{♩} = 100$

a tempo

Speechlike

Musical staff 31-36. Measure 31 has XII, VII, XII, and a circled 5. Measure 32 has VII and a circled 5. Measure 33 has a circled 2, vib., and a slide. Measure 34 has a slide. Measure 35 has a bend. Measure 36 has a slide. Dynamics include p, mf, p, and f.

più mosso:

$\text{♩} = 100$

multi-harmonic /
finger to wood**

Musical staff 37-42. Measure 37 has VII, V, VII, and a circled 6. Measure 38 has VII, V, VII, and a circled 6. Measure 39 has VII, V, VII, and a circled 6. Measure 40 has VII, V, VII, and a circled 6. Measure 41 has VII, V, VII, and a circled 6. Measure 42 has VII, V, VII, and a circled 6. Dynamics include p, mf, ff, mf, and p.

a tempo ($\text{♩} = 76$)

Speechlike

più mosso:

$\text{♩} = 100$

Musical staff 43-48. Measure 43 has VII, V, VII, and a circled 6. Measure 44 has VII, V, VII, and a circled 6. Measure 45 has VII, V, VII, and a circled 6. Measure 46 has VII, V, VII, and a circled 6. Measure 47 has VII, V, VII, and a circled 6. Measure 48 has VII, V, VII, and a circled 6. Dynamics include mf, pp, mf, p, mf, and p.

Musical staff 49-52. Measure 49 has VII, V, VII, and a circled 6. Measure 50 has VII, V, VII, and a circled 6. Measure 51 has VII, V, VII, and a circled 6. Measure 52 has VII, V, VII, and a circled 6. Dynamics include mf, ff, and p.

a tempo
($\text{♩} = 76$)

[Tuning: 5-Bb, 6-Eb]

Musical staff 53-56. Measure 53 has VII, V, VII, and a circled 6. Measure 54 has VII, V, VII, and a circled 6. Measure 55 has VII, V, VII, and a circled 6. Measure 56 has VII, V, VII, and a circled 6. A 'peg gliss.' is indicated. Dynamics include f, p, and mf.

accel. -----

$\text{♩} = 100$

Speechlike

With increasing tension

multi-harmonic /
finger to wood**

(norm.)

Musical staff 57-62. Measure 57 has VII, V, VII, and a circled 6. Measure 58 has VII, V, VII, and a circled 6. Measure 59 has VII, V, VII, and a circled 6. Measure 60 has VII, V, VII, and a circled 6. Measure 61 has VII, V, VII, and a circled 6. Measure 62 has VII, V, VII, and a circled 6. Dynamics include p, mf, mp, ff, p, f, and p < f.

* Opportunity to check 5th string tuning, if required.

**6th string rest stroke ending in finger percussively striking sound board.

a tempo

accel. ----- $\text{♩} = 100$

a tempo

multi-harmonic /
VI ⑥ finger to wood

Musical staff 49-51. Measure 49 starts with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature. It contains a series of chords with fingerings V, VII, XII, and VI. Dynamics range from *p* to *f*. Measure 50 includes a multi-harmonic section with a circled 6 and the instruction 'finger to wood'. Measure 51 features a vibrato ('vib.') and a slide, with fingerings 1 and 2 indicated.

Musical staff 52-54. Measure 52 includes a vibrato ('vib.') and a slide, with fingerings XII, VII, and (norm.) indicated. Measure 53 has a vibrato ('vib.') and a slide, with fingerings XII and VII indicated. Measure 54 has a vibrato ('vib.') and a slide, with fingerings XII, VII, and (norm.) indicated.

più mosso:

$\text{♩} = 100$ Very Energetic!

XII
X
X
X
IX
rasgueado redondo

Musical staff 55-57. Measure 55 starts with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature. It contains a series of chords with fingerings XII, VII, and (norm.). Measure 56 has a vibrato ('vib.') and a slide, with fingerings XII and VII indicated. Measure 57 is a rasgueado section with a dynamic of *ff* and the instruction 'c a m i i sim.'.

Musical staff 58-59. Measure 58 is a rasgueado section with a dynamic of *ff*. Measure 59 is a rasgueado section with a dynamic of *ff*.

Musical staff 60-61. Measure 60 is a rasgueado section with a dynamic of *mf*. Measure 61 is a rasgueado section with a dynamic of *mf*.

meno mosso:

$\text{♩} = 84$

XII
XI
X
IX
IX
IX

Musical staff 62-63. Measure 62 is a rasgueado section with a dynamic of *ff*. Measure 63 is a rasgueado section with a dynamic of *ff*.

Musical staff 64-65. Measure 64 is a rasgueado section with a dynamic of *ff*. Measure 65 is a rasgueado section with a dynamic of *ff*.

Speechlike
vib. ~~~~~

90 *p* < *mf* *p* *f* *mf*

① ② slide vib. ~~~~~ XII VII

Detailed description: This staff contains measures 90-93. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). Measure 90 starts with a piano (*p*) dynamic, followed by a crescendo to mezzo-forte (*mf*) and then forte (*f*). The music features a sixteenth-note run in measure 91, a triplet in measure 92, and a slide in measure 93. Vibrato is indicated with a wavy line and 'vib.' above the notes. Fingering numbers 1 and 2 are shown. Fret markers XII and VII are indicated above the staff.

94 *f* *mf* *f* *mf*

vib. (detune) (retune) (norm.) XII

① ② slide VII peg gliss. peg gliss. ② ①

Detailed description: This staff contains measures 94-97. It starts with a forte (*f*) dynamic, followed by mezzo-forte (*mf*) and then forte (*f*) again. The music includes a slide in measure 95 and two 'peg gliss.' (pegged glissandos) in measures 96 and 97. A 'detune' and 'retune' instruction is shown with arrows above the staff. Fingering numbers 1 and 2 are present. Fret markers VII and XII are indicated.

98 XII VII XII dampen

② slide vib. ~~~~~ VII XII

① ② slide vib. ~~~~~

Detailed description: This staff contains measures 98-101. It features a slide in measure 98 and vibrato in measures 99 and 100. The music ends with a 'dampen' instruction in measure 101. Fret markers XII and VII are indicated.

Speechlike
(norm.) slide vib. ~~~~~

102 VII l.v. VII VII dampen

① ② pull-off ② slide

p < *f* *p* < *f* ①

Detailed description: This staff contains measures 102-104. It starts with a piano (*p*) dynamic, followed by a crescendo to forte (*f*), then a piano (*p*) dynamic, and another crescendo to forte (*f*). The music includes a 'pull-off' in measure 103 and a slide in measure 104. A 'Speechlike' instruction is at the top. Fret markers VII and 'l.v.' (liver) are indicated.

105 vib. ~~~~~ slide vib. ~~~~~ dampen

p < *f* *mf*

② ① ① ② slide VII V VII V VII

Detailed description: This staff contains measures 105-107. It begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic, followed by a crescendo to forte (*f*) and then mezzo-forte (*mf*). The music features vibrato and slides in measures 105 and 106. A 'dampen' instruction is at the end. Fret markers VII, V, and XII are indicated.

108 VII XII VII VII XII VII

(detune) (retune) peg gliss. peg gliss.

< *f* *mf* *mf* *mf* *mf* *mf* *mf* *mf* *mf* *sfz*

Detailed description: This staff contains measures 108-111. It starts with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic, followed by a crescendo to forte (*f*), then a piano (*p*) dynamic, and another crescendo to mezzo-forte (*mf*). The music includes two 'peg gliss.' in measures 109 and 110. 'detune' and 'retune' instructions are shown with arrows. The piece concludes with a sforzando (*sfz*) dynamic in measure 111. Fret markers VII, XII, and V are indicated.

112

(norm.) slide vib. pull-off

VII-----

Speechlike

115

f vib. slide slide pull-off slide

f p < f

118

< mf < mf < f p mf p f

slide slide etc.

120

pp < mf f slide vib. 'wiredapping' *

XII VII VII mf

123

pp < mf tr

XII-----

Shake Guitar **

125

w/R.H. p mf ff

* Heavy metal-style LH & RH 'wiredapping'.
 ** Shake/Roll guitar (not violently) to produce a gentle vibrato effect. [trapped] - 6

poco più mosso

a tempo (♩ = 100-108)

148

ff *p* *mf* *mp* *mf* *sfz*

151

pp *mf* *f* *sfz* *mp*

154

f *mf* *p*

Speechlike

poco più mosso

a tempo (♩ = 100 - 108)

157

f *p* *f*

159

p *f* *sfz* *mp* *f*

162

mp *f* *p* *f*

Speechlike

poco più mosso

165

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

poco rit.----- a tempo (♩ = 100 - 108)

rasgueado redondo

poco più mosso

a tempo
rasgueado redondo

[Tuning: 2-Bb, 5-Bb, 6-Eb]

* Opportunity to check 2nd string tuning, if required.

poco più mosso

w/ both hands -----
 play as written* -----

a tempo

(norm.)

poco più mosso

play as written* -----

a tempo

poco più mosso

play as written* -----

a tempo

vigorous strumming

↑↑↑↑↑↑ *sim.*

* 'play as written' = pitches on 2nd string are written as played (i.e. not as sounding); do not transpose these onto fretboard.

poco più mosso

a tempo

195

play as written

rasgueado redondo

camii

p *f* *mf* *ff*

VI V IV III III VII VI V IV IV VII VI V IV IV

slide slide slide slide

5 5 5 5

poco più mosso

a tempo (♩ = 100-108)

vigorous strumming

198

f *ff*

sim.

6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6

slide slide

201

f *sfz* *mf* *mp*

(norm.) (norm.) (norm.)

2 VII 2 X 2 XII 3 VII 3 X 3 VII 4 VII 4 VII 4 X 4 X 5 VIII 5 VII 5 VII

IV V VII XII V VII XII V VII

205

XII IV V VII XII l.v.

♩ = 108

With increasing tension!

play as written

VII
VI
V
IV
IV rasgueado redondo

208

vigorous strumming

211

214

217

220

meno mosso: ♩ = 84
Calm

Pause, as if about to perform an exuberant climax!

222

