



**On the
Radiance of Apollo
and the
Hubris of Marsyas**

for B \flat Clarinet and Fixed Media

Valentine Hueckel

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Program Notes

Marsyas is a satyr character from Ancient Greek mythology; today, he is primarily known as one of the figures who dared to challenge a god.

On the Radiance of Apollo and the Hubris of Marsyas relays a version of the myth in which Marsyas challenges Apollo to a duel of musical skill, with Marsyas performing on the *aulos* and Apollo performing on the lyre. The details of the contest vary between accounts, but most accounts agree that both musicians perform exceedingly well and Marsyas is declared the winner. Apollo, enraged by the results of the contest, brings his wrath upon Marsyas—how could a mortal ever *truly* best a *god*?

On the Radiance of Apollo and the Hubris of Marsyas is an electroacoustic piece in which the clarinetist takes on the role of the Greek chorus or narrator who “speaks” about the characters and events. Apollo and Marsyas are represented by contrasting themes, which often clash. The scales which form the themes are adapted from the writings of Ancient Greek musicologist Aristoxenos. Here, each scale is associated with a character or event: the **diatonic** (Apollo), the **chromatic** (Marsyas), and the **enharmonic** (the battle). The names of these scales do not match their contemporary counterparts. Rather, the **diatonic** equates to the modern natural minor scale, the **chromatic** resembles a major scale with added chromaticism, and the **enharmonic** employs quarter-tones. Listen for the grace of Apollo, the annoyance of Marsyas, and their contest.

Performance Notes

The Fixed Media portion of this piece consists of three tracks:

a right track, a left track, and a metronome track.

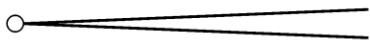

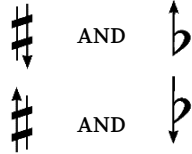
The metronome track contains a count-off of four beats.

These four beats precede m. 1.

The metronome track should **not** be audible to the audience; it is only to assist the performer. Headphones or earbuds are recommended for the performer.

Because the piece switches between simple and compound time often, beats in the metronome track are *divided in count-off measures only* (e.g., in a $\frac{6}{8}$ count-off measure, the click is six eighth notes—not 2 dotted quarter notes). This may sound confusing, but the metronome track should be clear and easy to follow once heard.

Explanation of Notation

	<p>The circle at the small end of a hairpin indicates a <i>niente</i> attack or release.</p>
<p>On the first beat of m. 20 (marked “[breath]”), breathe loudly enough for audience members to hear you.</p>	<p>Breathe as if you, the narrator, are annoyed by Marsyas interrupting Apollo’s beautiful music.</p>
<p>m. 24: indeterminate glissando</p>	<p>Play any quickly ascending series of notes. The pitches do not matter; the shape does.</p>
<p>m. 73: “scream”</p>	<p>This should be a dirty-sounding screech, created by humming while playing. Experiment with different hummed pitches. The scream need not be carried into the next part, but:</p>
	<p>Measure 74 is a guided improvisation. Follow the general shape of the jagged line. Breathe when needed. Squeaks and honks are <u>encouraged</u>. Rests are written above the staff to help the performer keep time.</p> <p>Suggested listening:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “React/Revolt” by Drahla (0:00–2:33).¹ • “Just” by Streetlight Manifesto (2:26–2:40).²
	<p>quarter-sharp AND quarter-flat</p> <p>three-quarters-sharp AND three-quarters-flat</p>
<p>Cues: drumset</p>	<p>Drumset cues are written in text below the cue staff and indicate grooves and fills.</p>

¹ Drahla, *React/Revolt*, (Leeds, UK, 2019).

² Streetlight Manifesto, *Just*, (Chicago, IL: Victory Records, 2010).

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Transposed Score

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$\text{♩} = 66$
sotto voce *tr* *p* *tr* *p* *tr* *tr*
fast-slow-fast

B \flat Clarinet

$\text{♩} = 56$ **A** Apollo
7 poco più mosso ord.

Cl. *mp* *p* *mp*

Track strings

11 *mf* *p* *mp* sotto voce

Cl.

Track chimes harp

15 ord. *mf* *p*

Cl.

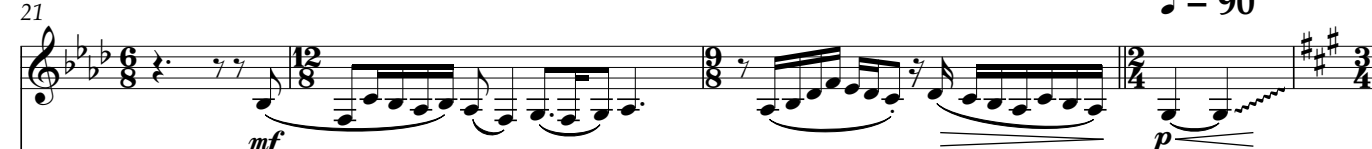
Track harp 2 2 chimes


18 *mf* [breath] *mf* lead lead 5

Cl.

Track

21 ♩ = 90

Cl. 

Track 

B Marsyas

25

Cl. 

Track 


30

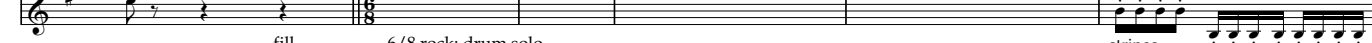
Cl. 

Track 

C Marsyas Challenges Apollo


36 ♩ = ♩

Cl. 

Track 

42

Cl. 

Track 

D

48

Cl. 

Track 

52 **E**

Cl. *mf* *p* *f* *mf* *p*

Track lead

55

Cl. *mf* *f*

Track harp 3 fill -- 4/4 rock lead

59

Cl. *f* *mf*

Track chimes strings harp lead fill

12/8 rock

più mosso ♩ = 100

F Marsyas Celebrates Victory

63

Cl. *f*

Track very fast rock

G Apollo's Wrath

67

Cl. *ff*

Track electronics tutti

fill -- -- -- -- slow 4/4 rock

73

Cl. ord. → scream *f*

Track