

Marco Buongiorno Nardelli

Canto notturno (di un pastore errante dell'Asia)

Night-chant (of a wandering shepherd of Asia)

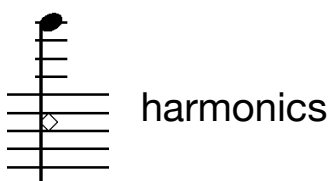
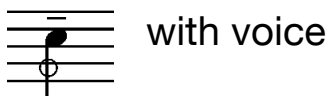
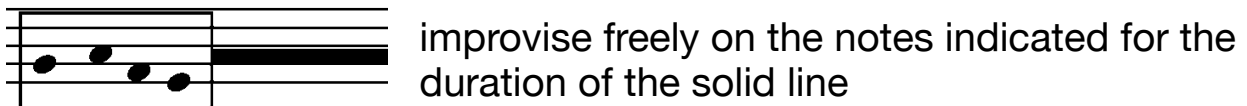
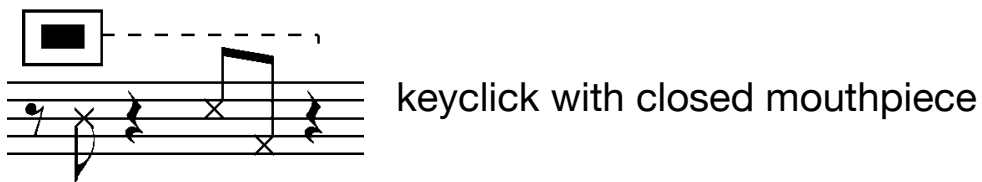
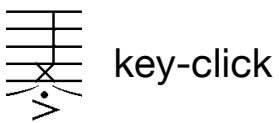
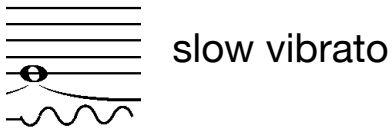
after Giacomo Leopardi

For amplified flute and flute on digital medium (one performer)

Around the end of 1829 or the first months of 1830, the Italian romantic poet Giacomo Leopardi composed the *Canto notturno di un pastore errante dell'Asia*. ("Night-chant of a wandering shepherd of Asia"). The canto takes the form of a dialogue between a sheep-herder and the moon and begins with the words "Che fai tu Luna in ciel? Dimmi, che fai,/silenziosa Luna?" ("Why are you there, Moon, in the sky? Tell me why you are there, silent Moon?"). Throughout the entire poem, in fact, the moon remains silent, and the dialogue is transformed therefore into a long and urgent existential monologue of the sheep-herder, in desperate search of explanations to provide a sense to the pointlessness of existence. The two characters are immersed in an indeterminate space and time, accentuating the universal and symbolic nature of their encounter: the sheep-herder represents the human species as a whole and his doubts are not contingent, anchored to a here and now, but are rather characteristic of man at all times; the moon, on the other hand, represents Nature, the "beautiful and terrible" force that fascinates and, at the same time, terrifies the poet.

In the short duration of this piece (~3 min.) I have tried to develop and exploit the idea, indicated by the poem, of a dialogue of the performer with him/herself, through the juxtaposition of the flute on stage and the flute on digital medium. Ideally the listeners should be transported by the musical landscape that develops, reminiscent of arid valleys and harsh soils under the cold moonlight. The chant of the shepherd develops from a murmur that gradually builds into a "monodic cry", to recoil eventually into the sad resignation of the solitude.

Performance notes:



lirico = lyric

con voce, doloroso = with voice, as in suffering

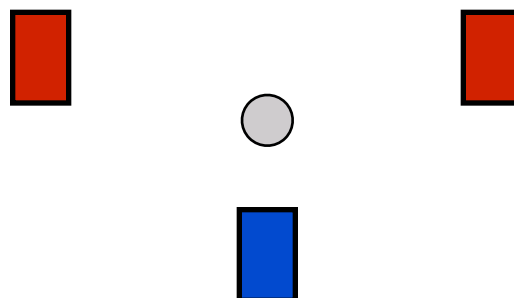
con angoscia, come un grido = with anguish, as a cry

rassegnato = resigned

morendo = dying

(*) denotes reference to a specific fingering indicated below the staves

The flute on stage part should be amplified with a moderate reverb to balance the sound of the recorded flute on tape. The live flute speaker (blue in figure below) should be placed in a central position in front of the performer, while the tape speakers (L and R, red) should be placed symmetrically and should face the audience to enhance the spatial effect of the echoes. Ideally, a configuration with multiple speakers surrounding the audience should be preferred.



Canto notturno (di un pastore errante dell'Asia)

Marco Buongiorno Nardelli

lento (♩ = 70)

Flute (with amplification)

Flute on tape

Echo (0-100) 50

Reverb (0-100) 50

Pan L C R

5

Fl.

5

Fl. tape

Ech. Rev. fade 50 fade

Pan

9

Fl.

mp

frull.

tr

Fl. tape

mp

Ech.

Rev.

Pan

13

Fl.

mf

3

3

Fl. tape

mf

3

Ech.

fade

Rev.

fade

Pan

17

Fl. *frull.* *f* *lirico*

Fl. tape *mf* 3 3 3 3

Ech. 30

Rev. 30

Pan

21

Fl. *frull.*

Fl. tape 3 3 3 3

Ech.

Rev.

Pan

25 *con voce, doloroso*

Fl.

Fl. tape

Ech. Rev.

Pan

ff

f

fade 80

80

29

Fl.

Fl. tape

Ech. Rev.

Pan

*con angoscia,
come un grido*

33

Fl.

Fl. tape

sempre sfz

Ech. Rev.

Pan

(*)

37

Fl.

Fl. tape

Ech. Rev.

Pan

(*) Th 12 |12 D#

(*) Th 1 3|123C

45

Fl.

mf

rassegnato

45

Fl. tape

mf

rassegnato

Ech.

Rev.

Pan

50

Fl.

Fl. tape

Ech. Rev.

Pan

f

f

fade

55

Fl.

Fl. tape

Ech. Rev.

Pan

p

p

fade

fade

60

Fl.

p *soffiato*

60

Fl. tape

p *soffiato*

Ech.

Rev.

Pan

fade

fade

morendo

Detailed description: The image shows a musical score for a piece titled 'Canto notturno (di un pastore errante dell'Asia)'. The score is for a flute part, with two staves: 'Fl.' (Flute) and 'Fl. tape'. Both staves start at measure 60. The 'Fl.' staff has a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a time signature of 4/4. It contains a melody of eighth and quarter notes, with a final measure featuring a half note and a fermata. The 'Fl. tape' staff also has a treble clef, a key signature of one flat, and a time signature of 4/4. It contains a similar melody, with a final measure featuring a half note and a fermata. Below the staves, there are two staves for 'Ech.' (Echo) and 'Rev.' (Reverse), both of which are marked 'fade'. A 'Pan' staff is also present, marked 'morendo'. The score includes dynamic markings 'p' (piano) and 'soffiato' (softly blown). The tempo is marked '60'.