



**University of
Sunderland**

Jenkins, Hayley (2022) Mirror for Solo Vibraphone, two performers. [Composition]

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H A Jenkins

Mirror

The Mirror

1. I am silver and exact. I have no preconceptions.
2. I am not cruel, only truthful
3. I meditate on the opposite wall.
4. I think it is part of my heart. But it flickers.

A note from the composer:

Mirror is written for two players, one vibraphone. The premise, is that there is a 'mirror' down the centre of the instrument and the players are mimicing each other. Mimicry is a way we learn from each other in the early stages of life, it can also be a way of forming bonds and building empathy.

In Sylvia Plath's poem 'Mirror' the mirror is addressing the reader about the changes it witnesses in its owner as the woman goes through her life and ages over time.

In this piece, the players are not mirroring exactly, as this would be challenging and not musically interesting; here the players are often playing close together and if not playing a note, mimicing the movement of the other performer playing by dampening notes or even pretending to play. The amount of exaggeration of movement is up to the duo performing, but like a reflection in the mirror should attempt to physicalise the piece in a similar manner.

This piece is about movement, as much as it is about the sounds created. I always watch the percussion players at the back of the orchestra as their movements are choreographed and precise like ballet dancers. Just as choreographed as our routinely engagement with our bathroom mirror on a daily basis.

Mirror
by Sylvia Plath

I am silver and exact. I have no preconceptions.
Whatever I see I swallow immediately
Just as it is, unmisted by love or dislike.
I am not cruel, only truthful,
The eye of a little god, four-cornered.
Most of the time I meditate on the opposite wall.
It is pink, with speckles. I have looked at it so long
I think it is part of my heart. But it flickers.
Faces and darkness separate us over and over.

Now I am a lake. A woman bends over me,
Searching my reaches for what she really is.
Then she turns to those liars, the candles or the moon.
I see her back, and reflect it faithfully.
She rewards me with tears and an agitation of hands.
I am important to her. She comes and goes.
Each morning it is her face that replaces the darkness.
In me she has drowned a young girl, and in me an old woman
Rises toward her day after day, like a terrible fish.

Mirror

Sylvia Plath

H A Jenkins

1. I am silver and exact. I have no preconceptions.

Andante con moto
medium mallets

Vibraphone

The musical score is written for Vibraphone in 4/4 time, marked **Andante con moto** and *medium mallets*. It consists of six systems of music, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The score includes dynamic markings (*f*, *mp*, *ff*, *p*) and articulation marks such as accents and slurs. Measure numbers 4, 8, 13, 17, and 19 are indicated at the start of their respective systems. The notation features a mix of eighth and quarter notes, often beamed together, with some measures containing rests. The piece concludes with a final measure at measure 20.

22

f *mp*

Red. \wedge

Detailed description: This system contains two staves of music. The upper staff has a treble clef and contains a melodic line with eighth notes and rests. The lower staff has a bass clef and contains a bass line with eighth notes and rests. Dynamic markings *f* and *mp* are placed below the staves. A 'Red.' marking with a wedge symbol is positioned below the first staff.

24

ff *f* *mp* *ff*

Red. \wedge Red. \wedge

Detailed description: This system contains two staves of music. The upper staff has a treble clef and contains a melodic line with eighth notes and rests. The lower staff has a bass clef and contains a bass line with eighth notes and rests. Dynamic markings *ff*, *f*, *mp*, and *ff* are placed below the staves. Two 'Red.' markings with wedge symbols are positioned below the staves.

29

\wedge Red. \wedge

Detailed description: This system contains two staves of music. The upper staff has a treble clef and contains a melodic line with eighth notes and rests. The lower staff has a bass clef and contains a bass line with eighth notes and rests. A 'Red.' marking with a wedge symbol is positioned below the second staff.

32

p *f* *ff*

\wedge Red. \wedge

Detailed description: This system contains two staves of music. The upper staff has a treble clef and contains a melodic line with eighth notes and rests. The lower staff has a bass clef and contains a bass line with eighth notes and rests. Dynamic markings *p*, *f*, and *ff* are placed below the staves. Two 'Red.' markings with wedge symbols are positioned below the staves.

2. I am not cruel, only truthful

36

Lento
arco soft mallets

p *mp*

Detailed description: This system contains two staves of music. The upper staff has a treble clef and contains a melodic line with a 'Lento' marking and 'arco' and 'soft mallets' instructions. The lower staff has a bass clef and contains a bass line with eighth notes and rests. Dynamic markings *p* and *mp* are placed below the staves.

41

Detailed description: This system contains two staves of music. The upper staff has a treble clef and contains a melodic line with eighth notes and rests. The lower staff has a bass clef and contains a bass line with eighth notes and rests.

46

arco

soft mallets

arco

p

51

soft mallets

arco

p

56

soft mallets

mp

61

mf

66

arco

soft mallets

f

69

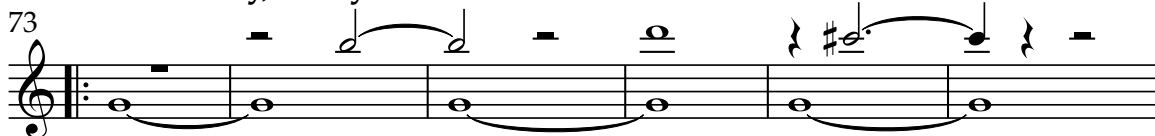
arco

soft mallets

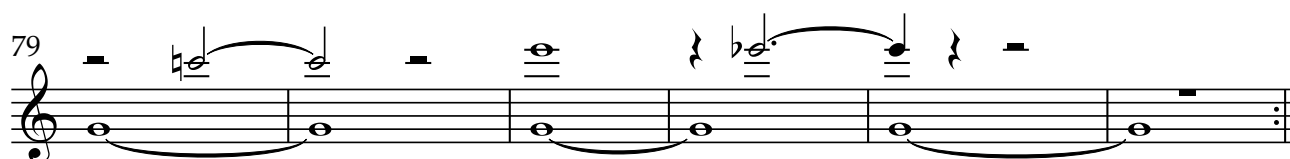
arco

p

3. Most of the time I meditate on the opposite wall.

Meditatively, freely

arco. play on an audible 'out-breath'

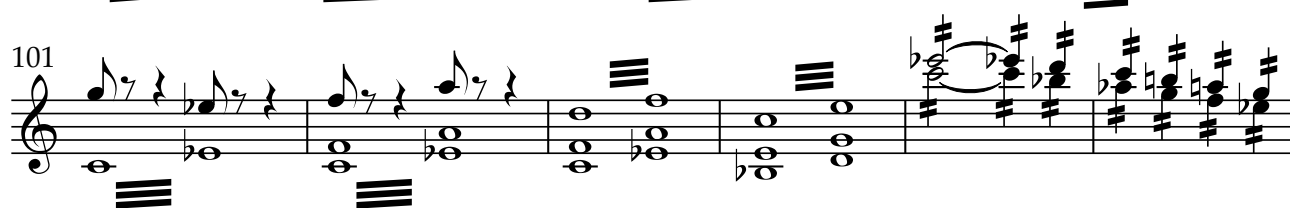
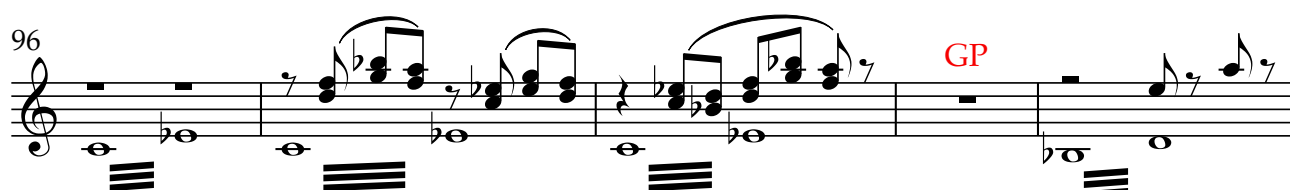
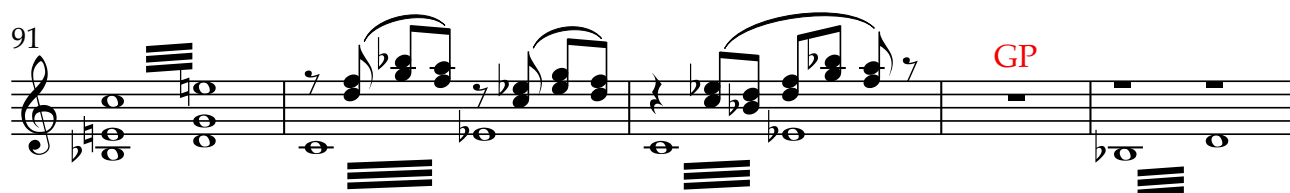


Keep repeating,
fundamental descends,
melody stays static,
pace and breathing increase.

4. I think it is part of my heart. But it flickers.

Allegretto

85 Soft mallets



8

114

GP

p

120

GP

125

mf

GP

128

pp

ppp