

icaro no. 1

for telos consort

flute + soprano sax

alto sax + tenor sax

violin

cello

piano

2024

15-30 min

Nicholas A. Batina

icaro no. 1
for telos consort

-instrumentation-

flute + soprano sax
alto sax + tenor sax
violin
cello
piano

Program Note:

An icaro is a type of magic song derived from a Quechua word “icarai”, which means “to blow”. This piece, tonight, has almost zero relation to actual icaros, as this style of music-making is deeply engrained in a culture far divorced from my own, with a particular performative focus on vegetal ceremonies and visionary states, both of which have little intersection with my own life. This piece does not function like an icaro, nor does it contain musical features found in those ceremonial procedures. Nonetheless, learning about this musical world has had a tremendous impact on my compositional output, and I would be remiss to vaguely allude to the incredible reconfiguration that has taken place in my musical voice as a result of my awareness of the subject. When I say “magic song”, I really mean it. The intention behind these songs is seemingly to guide participants of these ceremonies through challenging and ecstatic visions—anecdotes pointing to the idea that many, sometimes all, share these visions and their physiological or spiritual impact together. As such, an icaro is understandably a secret of the trade and hot commodity, developing into a sort of musical economy wherein melodies and lyrics are passed from teacher to student and master to master, the latter often for a price, or as an exchange of tunes and special “carrier” items. If such material falls in the wrong hands, bad things are surely to happen... though I’ll let you, my wise listener, go right ahead down that rabbit hole.

Notably, these songs are obscured during these ceremonies through whispering and whistling, taking great precaution to avoid exposing the full-breadth of the song in hopes that any “infiltrators”—wizards and witches, spies, “brujas”— secretly participating in these ceremonies walk away with only part of the music, thus protecting the song from more-evil applications. This aspect of the icaros is the only real intersection with the piece you will hear shortly. All performing members of Telos have their own unique metronome, each with a different tempo (e.g. 60 bpm, 61 bpm, 62 bpm etc.), repeating ad libitum cyclical chunks of music in an organizational style called Polytempo. What I hide from you is the beauty found in differing configurations of the metronomes, tighter or wider divisions. You will need to return and hear icaro no. 2 to experience another configuration first-hand, and you will never know the full extent of Polytempo, as I do now, until this comes to pass. See you at the next show.

Performance Note:

In this particular iteration of the *icaro* series, each performer will use a visual metronome on their phone, synced roughly via a simple cue. Since this iteration will likely be the most melodic of any in the collection, absolute precision will not be absolutely necessary (unlike “sub-beat tempo flux”, tempo divisions as minute as 1/10th of a click). This will also lend itself to a shorter runtime, as full cycles will occur quicker and more audibly. *Each new cell will be coordinated via a cue mid-performance, which should be well rehearsed as material will often remain identical in the part on subsequent cells, making the change almost inaudible at times. This can cause a pain-point of losing track of the bar, where one is at in the score!*

icaro no. 1 uses a 5-click “tempo flux”, with flute+sop at 108 BPM, alto+tenor at 109 BPM, violin at 110 BPM, cello at 111 BPM, and, naturally, piano at 112 BPM. I use the app, *flashy metronome*, on iOS, to synchronize this music, with future versions implementing Philippe Kocher’s computer applications, *Polytempo Composer & Polytempo Network*. All things considered, any alternative flashing, visual metronome will do for icaro no. 1.

It should be noted that all instances of noteheads shaped like this,  , or this,  , indicate that the music is subject to the influence of “tempo flux”, with the only deviation in this score being the final three bars of the piece in strict, unified time to cast off the performance. Bars 126-128 will continue at the mercy of tempo flux, but the fermata will cease the tempo flux to transition into the ending. Aside from the temporal oddities, all other notations are conventional, without extended technique of any kind.

icaro no. 1

Nicholas A. Batina (1998)

for Telos Consort [transposed score]

beam of light, opening [5 BPM Polytempo] (♩ = 108-112)

This musical score is for the 'The Swan' movement from the Suite for Piano, Op. 20, by Camille Saint-Saëns. The score is arranged for a chamber ensemble consisting of Flute, Violin, Flute II, Violin II, Piano, and Viola. The music is in 4/4 time and begins with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The score is divided into two systems. The first system includes staves for Flute, Violin, Flute II, Violin II, and Piano. The second system includes staves for Flute II, Violin II, Viola, and Piano. The music features a prominent melody in the Flute and Violin parts, supported by the Piano and Viola. The score includes dynamic markings such as *f* (forte) and *ff* (fortissimo), and articulation marks like slurs and accents. The score is presented in a clean, professional layout with a white background and black musical notation.

7

Fl.

Vln

Vc.

Pno

sfz
Ped.....

f

f

f

9

A

Fl.

T. Sax.

Vln

Vc.

Pno

sfz

f

f

f

[illegible]

This musical score is for measures 13 and 14 of the piece 'The Rose Tree'. It is written for a five-part ensemble: Flute (Fl.), Tenor Saxophone (T. Sax.), Violin (Vln), Voice (Vc.), and Piano (Pno). The key signature has one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 3/4. Measure 13 begins with a repeat sign. The Flute and Tenor Saxophone parts play a series of eighth notes. The Violin part plays a series of eighth notes with a crescendo hairpin. The Voice part plays a series of eighth notes with a crescendo hairpin. The Piano part plays a series of eighth notes with a crescendo hairpin. Measure 14 continues the patterns from measure 13, with the Flute and Tenor Saxophone parts playing a series of eighth notes. The Violin part plays a series of eighth notes with a crescendo hairpin. The Voice part plays a series of eighth notes with a crescendo hairpin. The Piano part plays a series of eighth notes with a crescendo hairpin. The score includes dynamic markings such as *f* (forte) and *sfz* (sforzando).

17

B

T. Sax.

Vc.

Pno

f

f

f

sfz

19

T. Sax.

Vc.

Pno

fp

fp

fp

Sost.

Detailed description: This system contains measures 19 and 20. The T. Sax. part (treble clef) starts with a melodic line in measure 19, marked with accents and a crescendo line, leading to a final note in measure 20. The Vc. part (bass clef) plays a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes in measure 19, followed by a crescendo line, and then a melodic line in measure 20. The Pno part (grand staff) plays a sustained chord in measure 19, marked with a crescendo line and a 'Sost.' marking, and then a final chord in measure 20. Dynamics include *fp* (fortissimo piano) and *fp* (fortissimo).

21

T. Sax.

Vc.

Pno

fp

fp

fp

Detailed description: This system contains measures 21 and 22. The T. Sax. part (treble clef) starts with a melodic line in measure 21, marked with accents and a crescendo line, leading to a final note in measure 22. The Vc. part (bass clef) plays a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes in measure 21, followed by a crescendo line, and then a melodic line in measure 22. The Pno part (grand staff) plays a sustained chord in measure 21, marked with a crescendo line, and then a final chord in measure 22. Dynamics include *fp* (fortissimo piano) and *fp* (fortissimo).

23

T. Sax.

Vln

Vc.

Pno

fp

fp

fp

fp

C

25

S. Sax.

T. Sax.

Vln

Vc.

Pno

fp

fp

fp

fp

27

S. Sax. *fp* *f*

T. Sax. *fp* *f*

Vln. *fp* *f*

Vc. *fp* *fp*

Pno *fp* *f* *pp*

28

S. Sax. *fp*

T. Sax. *fp*

Vln. *fp*

Vc. *fp*

Pno *8va* *pp*

30

S. Sax. *pp*

T. Sax. *pp*

Vln. pizz. *pp*

Vc. pizz. *pp*

Pno

8va

pp

32

D

S. Sax. *pp*

T. Sax. *pp*

Vln. *pp*

Vc. *pp*

Pno

6

8va

To A. Sax.

34

S. Sax.

Vln

Vc.

Pno

pizz.

pizz.

p

p

p

6

6

6

6

6

8^{va}

36

S. Sax.

Vln

Vc.

arco

f

f

f

1

1

1

E

39

S. Sax.

Vln

Vc.

arco

f

f

f

1

1

1

42

S. Sax.

Vln

Vc.

arco

arco

f

f

f

1

1

1

45

S. Sax.

Vln

Vc.

f

1

48

S. Sax.

Vln

Vc.

f

f

f

F

50

S. Sax.

Vln

Vc.

Pno

f

f

f

8va

Ped.

52

S. Sax.

A. Sax.

Vln

Vc.

Pno

Ped.

f

pp

8^{va}

54

S. Sax.

A. Sax.

Vln

Vc.

Pno

Ped.

f

pp

pp sub.

8^{va}

57 G

S. Sax. *fp*

A. Sax. *fp*

Vln *fp*

Vc. *fp*

Pno *fp*
Ped.

59

S. Sax. *f-pp*

A. Sax. *f-pp*

Vln *f-pp*

Vc. *f-pp*

Pno *f-pp*
(Ped.)

2

2

2

2

63

S. Sax.

fp

A. Sax.

fp

Vln

fp

Vc.

fp

Pno

fp

Ped.

[illegible]

Musical score for measures 78-80. The score includes staves for S. Sax., A. Sax., Vln., Vc., and Pno. Measures 78 and 79 show melodic lines for Saxophones and Violins, and harmonic support from Piano and Viola. Measure 80 features a double bar line followed by a repeat sign and a fermata over measure 81.

82

I

S. Sax.

A. Sax.

Vln

Vc.

Pno

8^{va}

p

85

2

2

2

2

(8)

2

89

S. Sax.

A. Sax.

Vln

Vc.

Pno

8va

p

p

92

S. Sax.

A. Sax.

Vln.

Vc.

Pno

93

94

2

2

2

2

2

99

S. Sax.

A. Sax.

Vc.

Pno

3

3

3

3

104

S. Sax.

A. Sax.

Vc.

Pno

8va

p

107

S. Sax.

A. Sax.

Vc.

Pno

8

3

3

3

3

112 **K** To Fl. **4**

S. Sax. *p*

A. Sax. *p*

Pno. *p*

Ped. *p*

120

Fl. non vib.

A. Sax.

Vln

Vc.

Pno

Ped.

p

p

p

p

2

2

2

2

126

Fl.

Vln

Vc.

Pno

Ped.

p

p

p

p

L

130

Fl.

A. Sax.

Vln

Vc.

Pno

Ped.

p

p

p

pp

in strict, unified time ($\text{♩} = \text{c. } 56$)