Twenty-two miniatures of the Tarot: a cycle for chamber ensemble

Pierre Emmanuel Mariaca

University of New Orleans, pierre_mariaca@hotmail.com

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Twenty-two miniatures of the Tarot: a cycle for chamber ensemble

A Thesis

Submitted to the Graduate Faculty of the
University of New Orleans
in partial fulfillment of the
requirements for the degree of

Master of Music
in
Composition

by
Pierre Emmanuel Mariaca
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Abstract


Keywords: Chamber Music, Miniature, Major Arcana, Tarot de Marseille
Program Notes

Major Arcana I - The Magician (for Bb Clarinet Solo), or the first major arcana of the Tarot, represents the spontaneity of youth with all its potential of creativity, and the origins of life on earth for a human being.

Major Arcana II - The High Priestess (for Quartet), or the second major arcana of the Tarot represents the wisdom of adulthood.

Major Arcana III - The Empress (for Quintet), or the third major arcana of the Tarot, represents the intelligence and the freedom of speech of a young person.

Major Arcana IV - The Emperor (for Quintet), or the fourth major arcana of the Tarot, represents the stability and the mastery of the material world.

Lyrics by Pierre Emmanuel Mariaca:

The Emperor
I'm The Emperor,
The father.
The sitting stability.
And I'm the materiality of the number four.
I'm your inner warrior.
Masculinity of your being.

El Emperador
Soy el Emperador,
El padre.
La estabilidad sentada.
Y soy la materialidad del quatro.
Soy tu guerrero interior.
Masculinidad de tu ser.

Major Arcana V - The Pope (for String Quartet), or the fifth major arcana of the Tarot, represents the spiritual power, the superior knowledge and the teaching.

Major Arcana VI - The Lover (for Quintet), or the sixth major arcana of the Tarot, represents the union and the emotional and social life of a young person who falls in love for the first time and who must make choices in life.

Lyrics by Pierre Emmanuel Mariaca:

The Lover
I'm The Lover,
Ah! The Lover,
Almost invisible.
I'm living in the ecstasy of the other,
This other who is none other than me.

El Enamorado
Soy El Enamorado,
Ah! El Amante,
Almost invisible.
Vivo en el éxtasis del otro,
Ese otro que no es otro que yo.

Major Arcana VII - The Chariot (for Violin Solo), or the seventh major arcana of the Tarot, represents the power of action in the world and autonomy.

Major Arcana VIII - Justice (for C Flute Solo), or the eighth major arcana of the Tarot, represents Law and Harmony.

Major Arcana IX - The Hermit (for Quartet), or the ninth major arcana of the Tarot, represents the knowledge, the experience and the wisdom of the Old Age.
**Major Arcana X - The Wheel of Fortune** (for eleven musicians), or the tenth major arcanum of the Tarot, represents the beginning or the end of a new cycle of life and the impermanence of life.

**Major Arcana XI - Strength** (for Viola Solo), or the eleventh major arcanum of the Tarot, represents the instinctive energy and its control.

**Major Arcana XII - The Hanged Man** (for Sextet), or the twelfth major arcanum of the Tarot, represents the gift of oneself and the meditative life.

**Major Arcana XIII - The Nameless Arcanum** (for Duo), or the thirteenth major arcanum of the Tarot, represents the principle of radical change and transformation to eliminate what prevents the human being from moving forward.

**Major Arcana XIV - Temperance** (for Oboe Solo), or the fourteenth major arcanum of the Tarot, represents the principle of healing and moderation.

**Major Arcana XV - The Devil** (for Duo), or the fifteenth major arcanum of the Tarot, represents the hidden powers of the human subconscious.

Lyrics by Pierre Emmanuel Mariaca:

**The Devil**
The Devil,  
I am,  
The fire  
Which burns in you,  
The passion of enjoying my body,  
The pleasure is my temple,  
All that I attract  
I devour it immediately!

**El Diablo**
Diablo,  
Soy,  
El fuego  
Que arde en ti,  
La passion de gozar de mi cuerpo,  
El placer es mi templo,  
Todo lo que atraigo,  
Lo devero en seguida!

**Major Arcana XVI - The Tower** (for Percussion Solo), or the sixteenth major arcanum of the Tarot, represents the expression and the freedom of what was imprisoned in the human being.

**Major Arcana XVII - The Star** (for Soprano Solo), or the seventeenth major arcanum of the Tarot, represents the power of artistic inspiration and the principle of fertility.

Lyrics by Pierre Emmanuel Mariaca:

**The Star**
Follow me,  
I’m your Star,  
The Temple,  
Of The Arts,  
Sacred Spring,  
The Gift,  
That heals,  
The Humanity,  
Follow me,  

**La Estrella**
Sigue me,  
Soy tu Estrella,  
El Templo,  
De los Artes,  
Fuente sagrada,  
El Don,  
Que cura,  
La Humanidad,  
Sigue me.
Major Arcana XVIII - The Moon (for Quartet), or the eighteenth major arcana of The Tarot, represents the receptive female power and the imagination.

Major Arcana XIX - The Sun (for Cello Solo), or the nineteenth major arcana of The Tarot, represents the paternal archetype and the principle of reciprocity.

Major Arcana XX - Judgement (for Duo), or the twentieth major arcana of The Tarot, represents the awakening of consciousness and the renaissance of someone.

Major Arcana XXI - The World (for Piano Solo), or the twenty-first major arcana of The Tarot, represents the total realization of a human being on earth with maximal expansion.

Major Arcana XXII - The Fool (for Quintet), or the twenty-second major arcana of The Tarot, represents marginality, freedom and madness.
Lyrics by Pierre Emmanuel Mariaca:

The Fool
I'm the Fool,
A change of consciousness,
In your being.

El Loco
El Loco soy,
Un cambio de consciencia,
En tu ser.
Score in C

Major Arcana I: The Magician
Solo for Bb Clarinet

Lento  \( \dot{q} = 40 \)

From blow to real pitch → Non vibrato → Molto vibrato → Non vibrato

Andante  \( \dot{q} = 60 \)
Tempo di Valse

\[
\text{From blow to real pitch → Non vibrato → Molto vibrato → Non vibrato}
\]

\[
\text{Andante } \dot{q} = 60 \text{ \ Temp} \text{do Valse}
\]

\[
\text{From blow to real pitch → Non vibrato → Molto vibrato → Non vibrato}
\]
Score in C

Major Arcana II: The High Priestess
For Quartet

Andante $\frac{\text{j}}{\text{=}} = 60$

Flute

Violin

Bb Clarinet

Vibraphone

Fl. Vln. Cl. Vib.

High motor

With 2 soft mallets

6 flz.

p mf mf

p mf

p mf

p

p

p

p

6
Fl.

Ob.

Vln.

Vla.

Vib.

Vibraphone
High Motor
2 medium mallets

Snare Drum (without chain), with 1 medium mallet
Tom Tom, with 1 soft mallet
Score in C

Major Arcana IV : The Emperor
For Quintet

Andante $\frac{4}{4} = 80$

Soprano

With authority

Soy El Em-per-a-dor, el pa-dre.

C Fl.

Bb Cl.

Vib.

Violin

Gong

Vibraphone

1 soft mallet

4 soft mallets

Andante $\frac{4}{4} = 80$


Bb Cl.

Vib.

Vln.
Major Arcana VI: The Lover

for Quintet

Score in C

Andante  \( \text{\textbf{j}} = 80 \)

*Refers to a rhythm alternation of one hand on and off mouth while singing.

Andante  \( \text{\textbf{j}} = 70 \)

Tenderly

With wonder
Andante  $j = 80$

Sopr.

Fl.

Bb Cl.

Vln.

Vib.

14

Vi

vo en el ex

tasis del otro,

f

mf

$p$

16

E

se o

tro que no es o

tro que
repeat this pattern by accelerating until the end of the next measure.
Major Arcana VII : The Chariot

Solo for Violin

Andante  \( \frac{\text{j}}{=} \ 90 \)

\[
\begin{array}{c}
1 & Sul A \\
\text{Sul D} & p \\
\text{sf} \\
3 & \text{arco} \\
\text{ord.} & \text{s.p.} & \text{ord.} \\
\text{pizz.} & \text{arco} \\
\text{mf} & p & f & \text{mf} \rightarrow \text{ff} \\
5 & \text{Sul D} \\
\text{Sul E} & \text{molto rall.} \\
\text{Sul G} & \text{sp} \\
\text{Sul A} & \text{sf} \\
\text{sp} \\
7 & \text{Lento}  \( \frac{\text{j}}{=} \ 60 \)
\end{array}
\]

\[
\begin{array}{c}
5 & \text{Sul D} \\
\text{Sul E} & \text{molto rall.} \\
\text{Sul G} & \text{sp} \\
\text{Sul A} & \text{sf} \\
\text{sp} \\
7 & \text{Lento}  \( \frac{\text{j}}{=} \ 60 \)
\end{array}
\]

\[
\begin{array}{c}
9 & \text{Sul D} \\
\text{sf} \\
\text{mf} \\
\end{array}
\]

Andante  \( \frac{\text{j}}{=} \ 90 \)
Major Arcana VIII : Justice
Solo for C Flute

Allegro, alla tango $ \dot{=} 100$

1

4

7

10

13

25
Major Arcana IX: The Hermit

for Quartet

Lento \( \frac{J}{40} \)

C flute

Bb clarinet

Viola

Cello

Fl.

Cl.

Vla.

Vlc.
Score in C

Major Arcana X: The Wheel of Fortune

For 11 musicians

Allegro $\frac{\text{d}t}{\text{d}t} = 110$

C Flute

Oboe

Bb Clarinet

Claves

Marimba

Piano

Soprano

Violin 1

Violin 2

Viola

Cello

Allegro $\frac{\text{d}t}{\text{d}t} = 110$
Major Arcana XI : Strength
Solo for Viola

Adagio $\frac{4}{4} = 30$

1

2

3

4

5

6

8

9
Major Arcana XII: The Hanged Man
For Sextet

Andante $j = 72$

C Flute

Oboe

Bb Clarinet

Violin

Viola

Cello

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Vln.

Vla.

Vlc.
Major Arcana XIII: The Nameless Arcanum

for Duo

Lento $\frac{1}{\text{q}} = 40$

1. segment A
2. segment B
3. segment C
4. segment D
5. segment E

B x A Non Transposed
B x A Transposed
B x B Transposed
B x C Non Transposed
B x C Transposed

B x D Transposed
B x E Non Transposed
B x E Transposed

B x A Transposed Retrograde
B x B Transposed Retrograde
B x B Non Transposed Modified
B x C Non Transposed Modified
Major Arcana XIV : Temperance
Solo for Oboe

Andante $\frac{1}{2} \cdot 90$

\begin{music}
\new staff
\n
\end{music}

Adagio $\frac{1}{2} \cdot 60$

\begin{music}
\n
\end{music}
Andante $\mathbf{J} = 80$

Adagio $\mathbf{J} = 60$

Andante $\mathbf{J} = 90$
Major Arcana 15: The Devil

For Duo

Allegro \( j = 60 \)

Soprano

\[
\begin{align*}
&\text{Di}a\text{-blo,} \\
&\text{Di}a\text{-blo,}
\end{align*}
\]

Piano

\[
\begin{align*}
&\text{s}o\text{y,} \\
&\text{s}o\text{y,}
\end{align*}
\]

S.

\[
\begin{align*}
&\text{soy,} \\
&\text{soy,}
\end{align*}
\]

P.

\[
\begin{align*}
&\text{el} \text{ fue} \text{-go} \text{ que} \text{ ar} \text{-de} \text{ en} \text{ti}
\end{align*}
\]

51
La pas-si-on de go-zar de mi cuer-po,

El pla-cer es mi tem-plo.

To-do lo que a-traí-go, lo de-vo-ro en se-gui-da!
Major Arcana XVI : The Tower
Solo for Percussion

Andante $\frac{\text{\textdagger}}{} = 40 \text{-} 60$

1. **Crotales**

2. **Vibraphone**

3. **Susp. Cymb., Bongos, Bass Drum**

1 Hard Mallet

$p$ (Percussion 1)

$\text{High Motor}$

$\text{2 Cord Mallets}$

$p \text{<mf} \quad \text{sp} \text{<mf} \quad p \text{<mf} \quad p \text{<mf}$

$p_{\text{L.0}}$

$\text{1 Cord Mallet}$

$\text{With left foot}$

$p \quad \text{mf} \quad p$

Crot.

Vib.

S.Cymb., Bongos, B. Dr

$\text{p}$
Major Arcana XVII: The Star
Solo for Soprano

Andante \( \frac{J}{\text{}} = 60 \)

Imitate the sound of the wind

Play on Susp. Cymbal with two Wire Brushes

(Play progressively from slow to fast)

Imitate a source of water

(Play progressively from slow to fast)

* Refers to a rhythm alternation of one hand on and off mouth while singing.

[S] - Suggest me
Soy tu Estrella.

Soprano:

El Templo, de los Artes, Fuentesa-grada.

El Don, que cura la humanidad.

Alterate the sound of the voice by knocking with the palm of the hand on the solar plexus.

Soprano:

Si guéme, sí, sí, sigue me, sigue me,

Susp. Cymbal:

Play on Susp. Cymb. with 1 Wire Brush

Glockenspiel:

Play on Glockenspiel with 1 Hard Mallet

Susp. Cymbal:

Glockenspiel:
Score in C

Major Arcana XVIII : The Moon

For Quartet

Adagio $\cdot = 60$

Violin

Oboe

Bb Clarinet

Cello

58
Major Arcana XIX : The Sun

Solo for Cello

Adagio $\sim 60$

Seagull Effect

Molto sul pont.  →  Ord.

Sul C

pizz.

5

Molto sul tasto  →  Ord.

pizz.

5

arco

Seagull Effect

Molto sul pont.  →  Molto sul tasto  →  Molto sul tasto  →  Ord.  →  Molto sul pont.

arco

更多加速...

更多拉长...

12

Molto sul pont.  →  Molto sul tasto  →  Molto sul pont.  →  Ord.

9

pizz.

Arco

61
Major Arcana XX: Judgment

For Duo

Lento \( \text{\textit{j}} = 40 \)

Violin

Vibraphone

For Duo

High Motor
4 hard mallets

63
Major Arcana XXI: The World
Solo for Piano

Allegro $\downarrow = 80$

mf crescendo

* No sound pitches, the only sounds should be fingernails on keys
*H (play glissando only on the black notes of the keyboard)

*M (play glissando only on the white notes of the keyboard)

*L (play glissando only on the side of the keyboard)

Play inside the piano, directly with fingertip on the piano strings

Pedal Kick

I: damp string inside piano to create harmonics on the G clef

Play normally

Play inside the piano, directly with fingertip on the piano strings
Like at the end of measure 4

Like measure 10

Play inside the piano, directly with fingertip on the piano strings
21. Play inside the piano, directly with fingertip on the piano strings.

23. *mf* crescendo

24. *ff*
**Performance notes for the Singer**

Repeat the motive of the box (two notes with glissando) until the end of the arrow.

---

**Major Arcana XXII : The Fool - For Quintet**

**Metric system**
- The first miniature uses a metric system with cues (see Figure 1 below).
- The big number above the measure represents the number of cues per measure (for example, the big number 5 in Figure 1 below means that there are five cues in this measure).
- The small numbers represent the cues.
- The duration between the cues is written in seconds.
- This metric system explains always which instrument leads the others instruments for the cues (for example, as written in Figure 1 below, we can see that the Bass Flute leads the others instruments).

![Figure 1: Major Arcana XXII : The Fool](image)

**Figure 1 :**

**Performance notes for all the Musicians**

1/4 sharp, 3/4 sharp

1/4 flat, 3/4 flat

**Performance notes for the Percussion Player**

**-Instruments**

- **Gong** : use a Chinese Gong
- **Suspended Cymbal** : use a regular size (ca. 18 inches)

**-Mallets**

- **2 Wire Brushes** : use it only to play the Suspended Cymbal and the Snare Drum.
- **2 Hands (without any mallets)** : use it only to play the Bongos.
- **1 Soft Mallet** : use it only to play the Chinese Gong.
- **4 Soft Mallets** : use it only to play the Vibraphone and the Crotales.
- **2 Bows** : use it for the Vibraphone and the Crotales only when its written "2 bows" on the score.

**Performance notes for the Singer**

Repeat the motive of the box (two notes with glissando) until the end of the arrow.
Performance notes for the Bass Flute Player

Wind tone

\[ \text{\textbf{Between wind tone and normal note}} \]

\[ \text{\textbf{Performance notes for the Bb Clarinet Player}} \]

Multiphonic

Major Arcana XXII: The Fool

For Quintet

Soprano

Bass Flute

Bb Clarinet

Violin

Susp. Cymbal

Flute leads

Suspended Cymbal

2 wire brushes

Snare Drum

Susp. Cymbal
Suddenly measured

Back to non measured on cue

Violin leads

Perc. leads

Bongos

2 hands

poco accel.

Suspended Cymbal

Violin leads

Perc. leads

Bongos
Suddenly measured

\( j = 80 \)

\( p \) violin leads

Un cam bio de cons cien cia

violin leads

Play gesture as fast as possible and repeat it until the end of the arrow

\( j = 60 \)

\( p \) con molto vib.

\( f \)
Pierre Emmanuel Mariaca is a composer and pianist from Switzerland. He obtained his Bachelor’s degree in piano performance from The University of Montreal, Canada. He entered The University of New Orleans music graduate program to pursue a Master’s degree in composition in 2015 under Dr. Yotam Haber.