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

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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
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requirements for the degree of

Master of Music
in
Composition

by
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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 arcana 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 arcana of the Tarot, represents the instinctive energy and its control.

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

**Major Arcana XIII - The Nameless Arcanum** (for Duo), or the thirteenth major arcana 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 arcana of the Tarot, represents the principle of healing and moderation.

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

Lyrics by Pierre Emmanuel Mariaca:

**El Diablo**

*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!

**La Estrella**

*The Star*

Follow me,  
I’m your Star,  
The Temple,  
Of The Arts,  
Sacred Spring,  
The Gift,  
That heals,  
The Humanity,  
Follow 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.
Major Arcana I: The Magician
Solo for Bb Clarinet

Lento $\text{\breve{\textbf{.}}} = 40$

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

Andante $\text{\breve{\textbf{.}}} = 60$
Tempo di Valse

Score in C

$q. = 40$

Major Arcana I: The Magician
Solo for Bb Clarinet

Score in C
Score in C

Major Arcana II : The High Priestess

For Quartet

Andante \( \frac{\dot{\ }}{4} \times 60 \)

Flute

Violin

Bb Clarinet

Vibraphone

Fl.  

Vln.  

Cl.  

Vib.

High motor

With 2 soft mallets
Major Arcana III: The Empress

For Quintet

\[ J = 80 \]

C Flute

Oboe

Violin

Viola

Susp. Cymb. (small)

1 medium yarn mallet

Fl. 3

Ob. f

Vln. 3

Vla. f

S. C. f

To Vib. f

fp

mf

fp

fp

fp

fp

fp

fp
Andante \( \frac{4}{4} \) = 80

With wonder

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{Soprano} & : \quad \text{p} \quad \text{mf} \quad \text{f} \quad \text{mf} \quad \text{p} \\
\text{Flute} & : \quad \text{mf} \quad \text{f} \quad \text{p} \\
\text{Bb Clarinet} & : \quad \text{mf} \quad \text{f} \quad \text{p} \\
\text{Violin} & : \quad \text{mf} \quad \text{f} \quad \text{p} \\
\text{Vibraphone} & : \quad \text{f} \quad \text{p} \\
\end{align*}
\]

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

Andante \( \frac{3}{4} \) = 70

Tenderly

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{Sopr.} & : \quad \text{p} \quad \text{mf} \quad \text{f} \quad \text{mf} \\
\text{Fl.} & : \quad \text{mf} \quad \text{p} \quad \text{mf} \quad \text{p} \\
\text{Bb Cl.} & : \quad \text{mf} \quad \text{p} \\
\text{Vln.} & : \quad \text{mf} \quad \text{p} \\
\text{Crotales} & : \quad \text{mf} \quad \text{mf} \quad \text{p} \quad \text{sempre} \\
\end{align*}
\]

Score in C

Major Arcana VI : The Lover

for Quintet
repeat this pattern by accelerating until the end of the measure

whisper
Major Arcana VII : The Chariot
Solo for Violin

Andante  \( j = 90 \)

Lento  \( j = 60 \)

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

Allegro, alla tango \( \mathfrak{d} = 100 \)

1

\[ \begin{array}{c}
\text{p} \quad \text{mf} \\
\text{mf} \quad \text{f}
\end{array} \]

4

\[ \begin{array}{c}
\text{mf} \\
\text{f} \quad \text{ff} \quad \text{mf} \quad \text{p}
\end{array} \]

7

\[ \begin{array}{c}
\text{mf} \quad \text{f} \\
\text{mf} \quad \text{ff} \quad \text{mf}
\end{array} \]

10

\[ \begin{array}{c}
\text{sp} \quad \text{f} \\
\text{mf} \quad \text{p}
\end{array} \]

13

\[ \begin{array}{c}
p \quad \text{mf} \\
\text{sp} \quad \text{mf} \\
\text{sp} \quad \text{mf}
\end{array} \]
Major Arcana IX : The Hermit
for Quartet

Lento $\mathbf{\frac{1}{3}} = 40$

Score in C

Flute

Bb Clarinet

Viola

Cello

Fl.

Cl.

Vla.

Vlc.
Major Arcana X: The Wheel of Fortune

For 11 musicians

Allegro \( \frac{\text{m}}{\text{f}} \) = 110

C Flute

Oboe

Bb Clarinet

Claves

Marimba

Piano

Soprano

Violin 1

Violin 2

Viola

Cello
Major Arcana XI: Strength
Solo for Viola

Adagio \( \frac{1}{4} = 30 \)

1

3

5

7

9
Sound pitches

Sul A  Sul A  Sul D  Sul D

Sounding pitches

Sul C  Sul C  mf  ff
Major Arcana XII: The Hanged Man
For Sextet

Andante  \( j = 72 \)

C Flute
Oboe
Bb Clarinet
Violin
Viola
Cello

Violin

Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Vln.
Vla.
Vlc.

Sujet
contresujet
Sujet
contresujet
Sujet
contresujet
Major Arcana XIII: The Nameless Arcanum

for Duo

Lento $= 40$

segment A

segment C

segment E

B x A Non Transposed

B x B Transposed

B x C Non Transposed

B x D Transposed

B x E Non Transposed

B x A Transposed Retrograde

B x B Transposed Retrograde

B x B Non Transposed Modified

B x C Non Transposed Modified

Vln.

Vlc.
Major Arcana 15 : The Devil

For Duo

Allegro $j = 60$

Soprano

Piano

Di a blo, Di a blo,

$\text{Re}^\circ$

soy, soy,

mf

$\text{el fuego que arde en ti}$

51
La pasión de gozar de mi cuerpo,

El placer es mi templo.

Todo lo que atraigo, lo doy en seguida!
Andante $\frac{1}{4} = 40-60$

1. Crotales
   - 1 Hard Mallet
   - 2 Cord Mallets
   - High Motor

2. Vibraphone
   - $p < mf$
   - $sp \rightarrow mf$
   - $p \rightarrow mf$ (Pianissimo)
   - $p \rightarrow mf$

   - 1 Cord Mallet
   - With left foot
   - $p$ (Pianissimo)
   - $mf$
   - $p$

4. Crot.
   - $l.v.$
   - $l.v.$

5. Vib.
   - $l.v.$

6. S.Cymb. Bongos B. Dr
   - $l.v.$
Major Arcana XVII : The Star

Solo for Soprano

Andante $j = 60$

Imitate the sound of the wind

* Damp the sound

Imitate a source of water

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

Play on Glockenspiel with 1 Hard Mallet
Sopr.

Soy tu Estrell-

Glock.

--p--f

Sopr.

la,_____ El__ Temp-lo, de__los Ar__tes, [f] Fuen-te [s] sa-gra-d,

Sopr.

El Don, que ca-ra la__hu__ma-ni__dad,

Sopr.

Si__gue me, si,___si, si__gue-me, si__gue-me,

Susp. Cymb.

Play on Susp. Cymb. with 1 Wire Brush

Glock.

Play on Glockenspiel with 1 Hard Mallet

Sopr.

Si__gue me,______Si__gue me,
Score in C

Major Arcana XVIII : The Moon
For Quartet

Adagio $\downarrow = 60$

Violin

Oboe

Bb Clarinet

Cello

Vln.

Ob.

Cl.

Vlc.
Major Arcana XIX : The Sun

Solo for Cello

Adagio $\frac{1}{4} = 60$

Molto sul pont. $\rightarrow$ Ord. $\rightarrow$

Molto sul tasto $\rightarrow$ Ord. $\rightarrow$

Molto sul tasto $\rightarrow$ Molto sul pont. $\rightarrow$ Molto sul tasto $\rightarrow$ Ord. $\rightarrow$ Molto sul pont.

5

Molto sul tasto $\rightarrow$ Ord. $\rightarrow$

arco $\rightarrow$ pizz. $\rightarrow$

9

arco $\rightarrow$ pizz. $\rightarrow$

molto accel. $\rightarrow$

molto rall.

12

 Ord. $\rightarrow$

18

Ord. $\rightarrow$
Major Arcana XX : Judgment

For Duo

Lento $j = 40$

Violin

Vibraphone

High Motor
4 hard mallets

63
Major Arcana XXI : The World
Solo for Piano

Allegro $j = 80$

1

$\textbf{f}$

2

$\textbf{mf}$ crescendo

*$\text{No sound pitches, the only sounds should be fingernails on keys}$

3

$\textbf{ff}$ diminuendo

$\textbf{PPP}$

*$\text{and}$

4
*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)

$p \rightarrow mf \ sp \rightarrow f \ p \rightarrow mf \ sp \rightarrow mf$

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

Pedal Kick

sf

Ped.

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

Ped.
Like at the end of measure 4

Like measure 10

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

mf crescendo

fff
**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)

**Performance notes for all the Musicians**
- $\uparrow$ $\#$
- $\downarrow$ $\flat$
- $1/4$ 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

Between wind tone and normal note

Performance notes for the Bb Clarinet Player

Multiphonic
not measured on cue

Soprano

Bass Flute

Bb Clarinet

Violin

Susp. Cymbal

2 wire brushes

Suspended Cymbal

Snare Drum

Susp. Cymbal
Suddenly measured

Back to non measured on cue

Suddenly measured

Violin leads

Loc - - - co - - - soy.

Violin leads

Violin leads

Violin leads

Suspended Cymbal

Perc. leads

Perc. leads

Perc. leads

Perc. leads

Bongos

2 hands lead

poco accel.

poco accel.

poco accel.

poco accel.

poco accel.

poco accel.

poco accel.

poco accel.

poco accel.

poco accel.

poco accel.

poco accel.

poco accel.

poco accel.

poco accel.

poco accel.

poco accel.

poco accel.

poco accel.

poco accel.
\[ \frac{j}{= 80} \]

Suddenly measured

\[ \frac{6}{p} \]

violin leads

\[ \frac{Sopr.}{Un_{\text{cambio de consciencia}}_{\text{violin leads}}} \]

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

\[ \frac{Picc.}{Molto sul ponticello Molto sul tasto lead} \]

\[ \frac{Bb Cl.}{\text{violin leads}} \]

\[ \frac{Vln.}{\text{violin leads}} \]

\[ \frac{\text{Sus. Cymb.}}{\text{violin leads}} \]

\[ \frac{j}{= 60} \]

\[ \frac{8}{p} \]

en tu ser

\[ \frac{\text{Sopr.}}{\text{con molto vib.}} \]

\[ \frac{\text{Picc.}}{\text{Ord.}} \]

\[ \frac{\text{Vln.}}{\text{Suspended Cymbal 2 wire brushes}} \]

\[ \frac{\text{Sus. Cymb.}}{f} \]
Vita

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. Yotum Haber.