



Vera Ivanova

THE FIREBIRD'S FEATHER

for flute solo

Duration: ca. 5-7 minutes

2024

Art and image by Barbara Wildenboer
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Composer: Vera Ivanova, ASCAP

Title: *The Firebird's Feather* for flute solo

Duration: 5-7 minutes

Program notes

The Firebird's Feather for flute solo is written at request of Michael Matsuno, the first performer of the piece. The piece is inspired by the legend of the Firebird (from Russian fairy tales) and partially by its interpretation by Igor Stravinsky in his famous ballet score "The Firebird" (specifically, by the overtone glissandos in strings from the Introduction to the ballet). In all versions of this fairy tale, once upon a time, a simpleton is seeing at night a magic bird which leaves behind its feather. The simpleton picks up and brings the feather to the Tsar, who gives him an impossible task to catch the magic bird. That's the moment in the story which I am capturing – the vision of the firebird, who drops her feather, which lightens up the darkest night. To mimic a magical bird, the piece makes use of many extended performance techniques, and at some point, the performer is asked to articulate certain vowels and syllables mimicking bird's chirping (*ti-ki-ti-ta, phi-u*) and pronouncing English transliteration of Russian words for "firebird" (*zharptitsa*) and "firebird's feather" (*perō zharptitsy*), later diminished to phonemes.

Performance notes

Tempo, time signatures





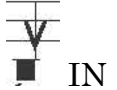

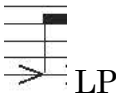







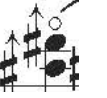
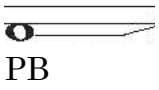

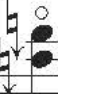
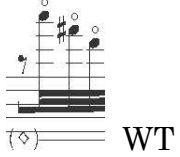



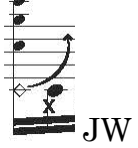






This piece switches between rubato-like unmeasured sections with approximate timing of events suggested (marked as ***freely, senza misura***), and measured sections with specific tempo (***con misura***). It uses an array of extended techniques, listed on the next page. The duration of performance can vary, depending on performer's interpretation. The suggested tempos in measured sections can be taken a bit slower.

Accidentals

The use of accidentals in measured sections follow standard rules (accidentals apply throughout the entire measure to the same notes, unless cancelled by naturals). Accidentals in unmeasured sections apply to the same notes throughout the line (unless cancelled by naturals), but do not apply to the next line.

Multiphonics and quartertones

This piece makes use of multiphonics (the fingering charts are provided in the score) and quartertones/microtones. For the microtones, the fingering charts have not been provided by composer whose suggestion is to use embouchure/lip glissando to achieve those quartertones/microtones.

technique notation	technique explanation	technique notation	technique explanation	technique notation	technique explanation
	100% air sound		short fermata	MV	molto vibrato
	50% air sound		flutter tongue		unpitched inhale through mouthpiece
	100% normal sound		lip pizzicato		unpitched exhale through mouthpiece
	from or to zero sound		change gradually		covered mouthpiece
	1/4-tone sharp, or slightly lower than sharp		tongue ram		uncovered mouthpiece
	3/4-tone sharp, or slightly higher than sharp		pitch bend or lip glissando		feather beams: speed up/slow down
	1/4-tone flat, or slightly lower than natural	OB (overblow)	forced sound		whistle tones over the harmonic series
	1/4-tone flat, or slightly higher, than flat	N (normal)	back to normal		normal fermata
	Aeolian sounds		Jet whistle up	SMZ (<i>smorzato</i>)	a type of irregular lip vibrato
	key clicks, pitched		Jet whistle down	BIS (bisbigliando)	a timbral trill using alternative fingerings
	key clicks, unpitched		double harmonics		double trill: alternate with 2 notes
	harmonic	PB	pitch bend	ε, ɔ	phonemes from IPA English alphabet

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Freely, senza misura

for flute solo

con misura

PB (pitch bend)

FLZ (fluttertongue)

$\text{♩} = 96$

ca. 6" ca. 6" ca. 2" ca. 3" ca. 3" ca. 2" ca. 4"

Flute

Voice

articulate (unpitched): ti - ki - ta ti - ki - ta

senza misura OG (overtone gliss.) ca. 3" LP (lip pizz.)

Fl.

V.

ti - ki - ta ti - ki - ta ti - ki - ta ti - ki - ta

ca. 3" ca. 3" ca. 3" ca. 3"

Fl.

sfz p mf sim. f

ca. 2" ca. 2" ca. 1" ca. 2" ca. 3"

Fl.

f

con misura $\text{♩} = 96$ LP (lip pizz.) TR (tongue ram) LP 3 senza misura gliss. on trilled note accel.

Fl.

f ff sfz mf sfz mf sfz pp

The Firebird's Feather

con misura senza misura OB & con misura

gliss. MV gliss. N

rit. (•) a tempo LP₃ TR LP₃

Fl. *f* *p* *mf* *fz* *mf* *f* *ff* *mp* *sfz* *mf*

gliss. LP 3 TR IN (inhale) TR TR TR EX (exhale) TR TR TR

Fl. *sfz* *mf* *fz* *f* *sim.* *b* *b* *b* *b* *b*

phi-u phi-u phi-u

senza misura, slow con misura senza misura, slow

PB PB TR IN TR IN TR TR EX TR IN TR IN TR IN

Fl. *p* *fz* *f* *b* *b* *b* *b* *b* *b* *b* *p*

V. sing: sing: [i - u - i]

con misura

LP

Fl. *mf* *pp* *mf* *p* *pp* *f*

senza misura

WT (wistle tones)

ca. 4-5" ca. 4-5" ca. 4-5" ca. 4-5" ca. 4-5" ca. 2" ca. 2" N

Fl. *subito pp* *f*