

# Richard BELCASTRO

## Syzygy

*for Violin, Clarinet in B<sub>b</sub>, and Piano*

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**Program Notes:**

In astronomy, a syzygy (*siz-i-jee*) is a straight-line configuration of three celestial bodies in a gravitational system. Moving in cyclical patterns, these bodies find themselves repeatedly aligned in various combinations that create unique celestial events. The most familiar such relationship is the Sun, Earth and Moon. When their cycles come together in a syzygy we observe different configurations described by the terms Conjunction, Opposition, Transit, Eclipse and Occultation. These various states give way to such events as a lunar or solar eclipse and a "new" or "full" moon.

In **Syzygy**, each statement within a Theme and Variation format is informed by a unique perspective created by a particular syzygial configuration. The instruments of the trio interact with each other according to the phenomena associated with each. This instrumental interaction is meant less to evoke a mood or emotion than to depict the interplay of the celestial bodies in a manner specific to the defined situation.

**Theme: Conjunction**

**Var. I: Transit**

**Var. II: Eclipse**

**Var. III: Occultation**

**Var. IV: Opposition**

# SYZYGY

for Violin, Clarinet in B $\flat$ , and Piano

## THEME: Conjunction

$\text{♩} = 180$  Steady and smooth

Violin

Clarinet in B $\flat$

Piano

Vln.

B $\flat$  Cl.

Pno.

Vln.

B $\flat$  Cl.

Pno.

**A**

Vln. *p* *f* *pp* *f*

B♭ Cl. *p* *f*

Pno. *p* *f*

**B**

Vln. *pp* *mp* *pp*

B♭ Cl. *p* *mf* *p* *mp*

Pno. *p* *mf* *p* *mp*

Vln. *mf* *pp* *f*

B♭ Cl. *mf* *f*

Pno. *mf* *ff* *f*

29

Vln. *p* *ff* *p* *ff* *p* *rit.*

B $\flat$  Cl. *ff* *p* *pp*

Pno. *ff* *p* *ff* *p* *pp* *8va*

Var. I: Transit

**C**  $\text{♩} = 180$  Light and distant  
*pizz.*

Vln. *mf*

B $\flat$  Cl. *niente* *pp* *poco*

Pno. *pp*

Vln.

B $\flat$  Cl.

Pno.

48 D

Vln. *ff* *mf*

B $\flat$  Cl. *pp* niente

Pno. *mf* *pp*

Rec. \* Rec. \* Rec. \*

55 E

Vln. *f* *mf*

B $\flat$  Cl. *p* *pp*

Pno. *p* *pp*

Rec. \*

61

Vln. *mp* *pp*

B $\flat$  Cl.

Pno. *ppp*

Var. II: Eclipse

♩ = 180 Playful  
arco

F

Vln. *mf* *mp* *mf* *f* *mf*

B♭ Cl. *niente*

Pno. *mf* *mp* *mf* *f* *mf*

Vln. *f* *mp*

B♭ Cl. *f*

Pno. *f* *mp*

Vln. *mf* *ff*

B♭ Cl. *ff* *ff*

Pno. *mf* *ff*

**G**

Vln. *mf ff mf ff*

B♭ Cl. *mf ff*

Pno. *mf ff mf ff*

Measures 83-88. The score is in 8/4 time. The Violin and B♭ Clarinet parts feature a complex rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes with accents. The Piano part has a more sparse accompaniment with some sixteenth-note runs. Dynamics range from mezzo-forte (mf) to fortissimo (ff).

**H**

Vln. *mf fff mp*

B♭ Cl. *mf fff f fff*

Pno. *mf fff mp*

Measures 89-92. The time signature changes from 8/4 to 4/4 at measure 90, and then to 3/4+3/8 at measure 91. The Violin part has a melodic line with a crescendo leading to fortissimo (fff) and then a decrescendo to mezzo-piano (mp). The B♭ Clarinet and Piano parts have similar dynamic markings and rhythmic patterns.

Vln. *f mp f ff*

B♭ Cl. *f ff*

Pno. *f ff*

Measures 93-96. The time signature changes to 2/4 at measure 94. The Violin part features a long melodic phrase with a dynamic shift from forte (f) to mezzo-piano (mp) and back to forte (f), ending with fortissimo (ff). The B♭ Clarinet and Piano parts provide a rhythmic accompaniment with dynamic markings of forte (f) and fortissimo (ff).



Var. III: Occultation

I ♩ = 160 Flowing

98

Vln. *p* *ff* *p* *pp*

B♭ Cl. *ff* *p* *ff* *p* *pp*

Pno. *ff* *p* *ff* *p* *pp*

105

Vln.

B♭ Cl.

Pno.

8<sup>va</sup>

113

Vln. *ppp*

B♭ Cl. *ppp*

Pno. *ppp*

(8<sup>va</sup>)

Red.

\*

(8<sup>va</sup>)

Vln. 119

B $\flat$  Cl. 119

Pno. 119

Reo. \* Reo. \* Reo.

(8<sup>va</sup>) rit. [K] a tempo

Vln. 124 niente ppp

B $\flat$  Cl. 124 niente ppp

Pno. 124 ppp

Vln. 129 niente

B $\flat$  Cl. 129 niente

Pno. 129 pppp

## Var. IV: Opposition

L

♩ = 170 - 180 Bouncy, very bouncy

Vln. *ff*

B♭ Cl. *ff*

Pno. *ff*

Vln. *mf*

B♭ Cl. *mf*

Pno. *mf*

Vln. *ff*

B♭ Cl. *ff*

Pno. *ff*

Vln. *fff*

B♭ Cl. *fff*

Pno. *fff*

Vln. *mf* *fff* **M**

B♭ Cl. *mf* *fff* *8va*

Pno. *mf* *fff*

Vln. *mf* *fff*

B♭ Cl. *mf* *fff*

Pno. *mf* *fff*

Vln. *sfz*

B♭ Cl. *sfz*

Pno. *sfz*

**N**

Vln. *mp*

B♭ Cl. *mp*

Pno. *mp*

Vln. *mf* *ff*

B♭ Cl. *mf* *ff*

Pno. *mf* *ff*

CODA

o

Vln. *pp* (8<sup>va</sup>)

B♭ Cl. *pp* (8<sup>va</sup>)

Pno. *pp* (8<sup>va</sup>)

Vln. *fff* (8<sup>va</sup>)

B♭ Cl. *fff* (8<sup>va</sup>)

Pno. *fff* (8<sup>va</sup>)