

Ian Evans Guthrie

Treacherous Tepuy



for flute, clarinet, trumpet, violin, viola, and violoncello

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(01)

for *yMusic* (flute, clarinet, trumpet, violin, viola, and violoncello)

premiered by *yMusic* in Dohnányi Recital Hall (Florida State University)
on April 15th, 2019

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Performance Notes

5 *sing and play* *ffp* *lip gliss.* *ff* *lip gliss.*

pp *ff*

sing and play *pp* *ff* *norm.*

molto sul tasto *pp* *ff* *a. s. p.* *norm.*

ffp *ff*

harmonic touch on non-harmonic nodes

58 *Open air tones (blow into mouthpiece)* *f*

FLUTE/CLARINET/TRUMPET

sing and play—Either sing in the direction of the arrows, or—for double-stemmed notes—sing and play in unison.

lip gliss—Create a pitch bend with the embouchure, without changing the fingering.

air tones—Blow into the tube without producing any audible pitches. Different pitches may be notated to achieve a slightly different timbre.

Trumpet—Pixie mute and plunger: + and o represent plunger covering and uncovering pixie mute.

STRINGS

alto sul ponticello (a. s. p.)—Play as molto sul ponticello as possible before playing on the bridge.

molto sul tasto (m. s. t.)—Play as high on the fingerboard as needed to create a true flute-like tone.

col legno battuto is sometimes combined with a. s. p. and m. s. t. to alter the overtones present.

Mute strings with the left hand to produce a pitchless rumble—Bow while muting all the strings.

tap the fingerboard—Tap the indicated pitches with the left hand, without using the right hand to bow, pluck, etc.

EVERYBODY

Brackets (⌈ and ⌋) indicate the primary melodic line in densely contrapuntal passages.

Measures 53-145 involve an imperceptible accelerando from 126bpm to 160bpm (with a few ritardandi).

Duration: ca. 6'

Program Notes

Sometimes, titles inspire my compositions; other times, my compositions inspire titles, as in the case of this piece. While composing for the amazing ensemble yMusic, material developed so organically, but I had no program attached to it. Therefore, I based the title of this composition on a question: What feels both treacherous and thrilling to me? I used to never fear heights, but that all changed when I had a near-death fall on a hike a few years ago. Thus, my favorite views often require me to overcome one of my phobias.

A *tepuy* (meaning “house of the gods”) refers to a mesa in South America that rises thousands of feet above a jungle. Although I have not (yet) ascended one, I imagine they share some similarities with the snowclad peaks I have. Fun yet fatal, there is nothing quite like the rollercoaster thrills of climbing big peaks.

However, since this piece began without a title, I encourage you to listen with an open mind to whatever storyline you hear. The piece begins with snippets of what is to come, and then it hits the ground running on a treacherous journey to its thrilling ending. What lies behind? That does not matter—enjoy the top first!