

Eric Galluzzo

Nothing Gold Can Stay

for flute, alto flute/piccolo, oboe, and bass clarinet

Commissioned by Kenneth Raygor

Based on a poem from Robert Frost (in the public domain)

March 2024

Instrumentation

- Flute
- Alto Flute (doubling Piccolo)
- Oboe
- Bass Clarinet in Bb

Duration

ca. 3'45"

Performance Notes

1. When a trilled note is tied to a non-trilled note, the trill should only be applied to the first note, not the second.
2. Ideally, players should avoid breathing on trilled notes.
3. There are sections of slap tongue in the bass clarinet. These are indicated by a plus sign (+). Any notes that do not have this indication should be tongued normally. If the player cannot successfully execute this technique, play the notes staccatissimo instead.
4. Tempos are approximate. Feel free to alter within reason.

Program Notes

This piece begins with a descending, “decaying” theme that recurs throughout. Nature is represented by the call of the northern mockingbird as the day dawns. Flowers push up from the earth with trills from the flutes and bass clarinet, but eventually decay sets in again (“but only so an hour”). Subsequently a regular pulsing rhythm begins, representing primitive Man in Eden. A slithering motif represents the serpent, the corrupting force. Man pushes upward, but the descending serpent counteracts him. Finally, at the climax of the piece, Man is corrupted (“Eden sank to grief”) as the decay theme is stated one last time, dying out into a single note from the bass clarinet. Nothing gold can stay.

Text

*Nature's first green is gold,
Her hardest hue to hold.
Her early leaf's a flower;
But only so an hour.
Then leaf subsides to leaf.
So Eden sank to grief,
So dawn goes down to day.
Nothing gold can stay.*

Nothing Gold Can Stay

for Kenneth Raygor

Eric Galluzzo

Lento ♩ = 48

Flute
Alto Flute
Oboe
Bass Clarinet

f *p* *mf* *p* *f* *p* *f* *p*

to Picc.

A Più mosso ♩ = 66

Fl.
Picc.
Ob.
B. Cl.

p (northern mockingbird)

Picc.
p (northern mockingbird)

p (northern mockingbird)

solo
mp

Fl.
Picc.
Ob.
B. Cl.

mp *p* *mf* *p*

mf *p* *mf* *p*

mf *p*

Nothing Gold Can Stay

8

Fl.

Picc.

Ob.

B. Cl.

mp

mf

B *poco più mosso*

10

Fl.

Picc.

Ob.

B. Cl.

p *mf* *p* *p* *mf*

to A. Fl.

A. Fl.

p *mf*

mp *p*

13

Fl.

A. Fl.

Ob.

B. Cl.

mp *mf* *p* *p* *mp* *p*

16

Fl. *mf* *mp* *f*

A. Fl. *tr* *tr*

Ob.

B. Cl. *tr* *tr*

18

Fl. *mf* *mp* *mf*

A. Fl. *mf* *mp* *mf*

Ob. *f* *mf* *f*

B. Cl. *mf* *mp* *mf*

21

Fl. *mp* *f*

A. Fl. *mp* *f*

Ob. *mf* *f*

B. Cl. *mp* *f*

Nothing Gold Can Stay

C

accel. poco a poco

Fl. *pp*

A. Fl. *pp*

Ob. *p*

B. Cl. *pp*

Fl. *mf*

A. Fl. *mf*

Ob. *f*

B. Cl. *mf*

Fl. *mp*

A. Fl. *mp*

Ob. *mf*

B. Cl. *mp*

D Tempo primo ♩ = ♩

♩ = 96

29

Fl. *ff* *mp* *mf* *p*

A. Fl. *ff* *mp* *mf* *p*

Ob. *ff* *mp* *mf* *p*

B. Cl. *ff* *mp* *mf* *p*

E Poco più mosso ♩ = 58

32

Fl. *f* *p*

A. Fl. *f* *p*

Ob. *f* *p*

B. Cl. *f* *p* (slap tongue) *p* (ord.) *mp* *p*

35

Fl. *mp* *slithering* *mf*

A. Fl. *p slithering* *mp*

Ob. *p slithering* *mp* *mf*

B. Cl. *mp p mp p mp* *mf mp*

37

Fl. *p* *mp* *f* *p*

A. Fl. *p* *mp* *f* *p* solo

Ob. *p* *mp* *f* *p*

B. Cl. *p* *mp* *p* *mp* *p*

40

Fl.

A. Fl.

Ob.

B. Cl.

42

Fl. *mp slithering* *p* **F**

A. Fl. *mp slithering* *p* to Picc.

Ob. *mp slithering* *p*

B. Cl. *mp* *p* *mp* *p*

44

Fl.

Picc.

Ob.

B. Cl.

p

mf

mf

mf

47

Fl.

Picc.

Ob.

B. Cl.

mp

mf

mp

mf

mp

mf

mp

G

Fl.

Picc.

Ob.

B. Cl.

f

mp

f

mp

f

mp

f

f

f

50

Fl. *f* *mp*

Picc. *f* *mp*

Ob. *mp* *f*

B. Cl. *mp* *f*

51 *più agitato e accel.*

Fl. *f* *mf* *f* *mf*

Picc. *f* *mf* *f* *mf*

Ob. *mf* *f* *mf* *ff*

B. Cl. *mf* *f* *mf* *ff*

53

Fl. *ff*

Picc. *ff*

Ob. *f* *ff*

B. Cl. *f* *ff* *f* *ff*

56 *allargando*

Fl.
Picc.
Ob.
B. Cl.

H *Tempo primo* ♩ = 48

Fl.
Picc.
Ob.
B. Cl.

broad fff *mf* *ff* *mp*

broad fff *mf* *ff* *mp*

broad fff *mf* *ff* *mp*

rubato fff *mf* *ff* *mp*

60 *rit.* *a tempo rit.*

Fl.
Picc.
Ob.
B. Cl.

f *p* *mf* *p* *mp* *p*

f *p* *mf* *p* *mp* *p*

f *p* *mf* *p* *mp* *p*

f *mp* *dim.* *p*

(if you need to breathe, do so while the other instruments are playing)