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Title

Europa

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Geoff Li

Europa

For Euphonium and Electronics

2019

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Europa

For Euphonium and Electronics
(2019)

Commissioned by Travis Kutz

Duration - 9 min.

Instrumentation

Euphonium
Backing track

The backing track comes in the form of an audio file. A backing track with a click track will also be provided. A computer with a DAW or other software for live performance is highly recommended for the simultaneous playback of the backing track and the one with click (two outputs going to the speakers, and the other two to the player's in-ears or headphones).

If the player doesn't want to use click, an alternative is to have a stopwatch in front of them.

About the Composer



Geoff Li

Geoff Li is a composer and guitarist based in Edmonton, Alberta. Born in Daqing, China in 1994 to Korean parents and immigrating to Canada at a young age, he has spent most of his life engaged in music, receiving guitar instruction from the age of 10 and later discovering an affinity for composing. Unapologetic in his love of various styles, he draws extensively from his background in jazz, progressive metal, electronic, and early 2000s video game music, among others.

A graduate of MacEwan University's Bachelor of Music program in 2016, he has since been studying under private instruction to continue his musical development. His teachers include Allan Gilliland, Kent Sangster, David Braid, Emilie LeBel, and Vincent Ho.

Geoff Li has been commissioned numerously by various Albertan musicians and organizations, including Obsessions String Quartet, WindRose Trio, the C'mon Festival, Noir Tea Orchestra, and the Edmonton Public School Board, among others. His music has been played by the University of Alberta Symphony, Yardbird Suite Jazz Orchestra, and at the C'mon Festival.

Besides composing, Geoff can be found playing guitar in electronic/progressive rock project *Ways in Waves* and playing video games (*Golden Sun: The Lost Age*, *Pokémon Emerald*, and *Metroid Fusion* being among his absolute favorites), and will almost never pass up a game of *Magic: The Gathering*.

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Program Notes

Space, and particularly the worlds in our cosmic backyard, have always captivated me since I was little. Despite most of them being completely uninhabitable, I still loved looking at and reading about all the terrains and colors and textures one would find on these diverse planets and moons. Europa is a moon of Jupiter's that, for decades, has captured the imaginations of many scientists, who speculate that underneath its icy surface could lie a potentially life-harboring ocean. When my friend Travis Kutz approached me to write him a piece for solo euphonium and electronics, this world immediately came to mind and got my imagination running, too.

I had been listening to a lot of electronic/ambient music, and particularly *Dark Jovian* by Amon Tobin, an EP inspired by space exploration films with most tracks also named after Jupiter and its moons (which certainly cemented my own choice of subject matter). I loved how so much of this style of music was texturally- and color-driven, as well as how patient its pacing was. Combined with a melodically-driven euphonium part, the resultant sounds on *Europa* intend to evoke what one might see and feel on the icy Galilean moon – an overwhelming sense of vastness and scale, a charm in its jewel-like icy terrain, and a great beauty in its (unconfirmed but speculated) underground, potentially life-filled ocean.

Performance Notes



Crossfade



Wide vibrato



Gradual widening of vibrato



Synchronized hit

The melodies in this piece almost always have a slight quasi-rubato element to them; however, there are times when the melody should line up as accurately as possible with the time (with a hit from the backing track), which will be notated with a dotted line (as shown above) connecting the euphonium note with the hit.

For Travis Kutz

Score

Europa

for euphonium and electronics

Geoff Li
(2018/19)
v6, 2020-03-22

Free time - spacious ♩ = ca. 120

Time

Euphonium

Synths

Pads

7

Time

28" Little to no vibrato until 3'59"

Click: 1, 2, 3, 4 - 1

Euph.

Syn.

Pds.

mp

13

1'00" With slow momentum ♩ = 120

Time

4/4 5/4 4/4

Click: 1, 2, 3, 4...

Euph.

Syn.

Pds.

p < mf

(Chimes)

(At pitch)

Europa

17

Euph.

Syn.

Pds.

4/4

5/4

5/4

mf

3

22

Euph.

Syn.

Pds.

5/4

4/4

4/4

mf

3

1'25" More motion ♩ = 126

26

Euph.

Syn.

Pds.

5/4

4/4

4/4

3

8va

1'38"

30

Euph.

Syn.

Pds.

5/4

4/4

4/4

3

3

8va

Bass 8vb

34

Euph.

Syn.

Pds.

f

(Bells)

39

Euph.

Syn.

Pds.

(Chimes)

(Bells)

(Synth)

45

Euph.

Syn.

Pds.

mp

(Snow)

(At pitch)

50

Euph.

Syn.

Pds.

p

Europa

4

56

Time 2'29" 8" 2'37"

Euph. (Breath sound) *p*

Syn.

Pds.

60

Time 4" 12" 2'41" 2'53"

Euph. Click: 1, 2, 3, 4 - 1 *mp* *p*

Syn.

Pds.

62

Time 3" 9" 2'56" 3'05"

Euph. *mp* 3

Syn.

Pds.

64

Time 16" 3'09" 12" 3'25"

Euph. *mf* 3 OFF (Ice cracking)

Syn. *sfz*

Pds.

67

Time 6" 3'53"

Euph.

Syn. (Synth) Click: 1, 2, 3, 4 - 1

Pds.

3'59" (♩ = ca. 120)

Time 6" 3" 5" 4" 4'05" 4'08" 4'13" 4'17"

Euph. A little vibrato *pp* < *p* *pp* < *p* *accel.* *mp* > *p*

Syn. (Ice rumble) *sfz*

Pds.

77 ♩ = 126

Time 4" 4'21" rit. 4'30"

Euph. *mp* *mf* *mp* Click: 1, 2, 3, 4...

Syn. *sfz*

Pds.

82 *gradually...*

Euph. *mf* *f* *p* *ff*

Syn.

Pds.

4'45" Vibrato as normal throughout

87

Euph. *f*

Syn. (Chimes) (Bells)

Pds.

Detailed description: This system covers measures 87 to 91. The Euphonium part begins in 5/4 time with a whole note chord, then changes to 4/4 time with a series of eighth notes and a triplet. The Synthesizer part features (Chimes) and (Bells) markings with various rhythmic patterns. The Piano part consists of a thick black bar with a wavy line above it, indicating a sustained or tremolo effect.

92

Euph. *mf*

Syn.

Pds. (Bass 8vb)

Detailed description: This system covers measures 92 to 96. The Euphonium part starts with a wavy line, then plays a melodic line in 5/4 and 4/4 time, marked *mf*. The Synthesizer part has a wavy line and some rhythmic patterns. The Piano part features a wavy line and a Bass 8vb marking, with various chordal textures.

97

Euph.

Syn.

Pds.

Detailed description: This system covers measures 97 to 101. The Euphonium part features triplets and a wavy line. The Synthesizer part has a wavy line and some rhythmic patterns. The Piano part consists of a wavy line and a thick black bar.

V.S.

rit. ----- **5'17"** A little slower ♩ = 120

103

Euph. *mf*

Syn.

Pds.

108

Euph. *f*

Syn. (Chimes)

Pds.

113

Euph.

Syn. (Bells)

Pds.

5'49"

118

Euph. *mp*

Syn. (Synth)

Pds. *p*

Europa

10

122

Euph.

Syn.

Pds.

127

Euph.

Syn.

Pds.

133

Euph.

Syn.

Pds.

mf *p* *mf*

(Voice)

pp (Bass)

138 6'27"

Euph. *f* *Quasi rubato, molto espr.* *ff* *subito mp*

Syn.

Pds.

143

Euph. *f* *3* *ff* *mf*

Syn.

Pds. #8

148

153 7'00"

Euph. *ff* *3*

Syn. *ff*

Pds. *ff*

Europa

12

(158)

Time $\frac{4}{4}$

Euph. $\frac{4}{4}$ Subtly point bell forward for better projection

Syn. $\frac{4}{4}$

Pds. $\frac{4}{4}$

(163)

Time

Euph. $\frac{4}{4}$ 7'38"

Syn. $\frac{4}{4}$ (Ice cracking)

Pds. $\frac{4}{4}$

7'44"

Time 1'14" 8'58"

Euph. TACET AL FINE

Syn. (Burst)

Pds.