

Aigeiros

ligata for guitar and fixed media

Martin Iddon (2016)

Performance instructions

Aigeiros comprises a twenty-minute fixed media part, which runs continuously, and fourteen shorter units which should be played by the guitar. Each unit is written in time-space notation, with a dotted barline representing the passage of five seconds. These units may be played *ad libitum* by the guitarist, with any length of pause before or after them, with the sole provision that all fourteen units must be played, in order, in a complete performance of *Aigeiros*.

In principle, the piece should be extremely quiet throughout: the fixed media part for *Aigeiros* should be replayed at the lowest dynamic possible at which the full range of sounds can be heard, with the guitar matching this dynamic, such that neither tape nor guitar is particularly dominant though, of course, one may predominate slightly over the other and *vice versa* at various points in any particular performance.

All guitar pitches should be sustained for as long as is physically possible, notwithstanding any fresh attacks. In order to achieve this, the guitarist may feel free to use harmonics, in place of the notated pitches, should this make such sustain easier, or to hammer notes on with the right hand as well as the left, this latter especially appropriate, perhaps, in the densest passages. The closing sonorities of any unit should be allowed to ring on for as long as possible, or until the guitarist chooses to begin a fresh unit, should that happen before the notes have died out. The sole exception to this rule of sustaining notes for as long as possible is the use of *appoggiature*, which should not be sustained and should be performed according to common practice.

Notes which are stemmed together should be taken to have a unison attack. Other than stemmed notes, there are no other unison attacks in the piece.

Programme note

Aigeiros, for guitar and tape, is an extension of my earlier vocal quintet, *hamadryads*, and, like that earlier piece, makes use in the generation of its pitch material of Josquin's *Déploration* on the death of Johannes Ockeghem, *Nymphes des bois*. It follows *Karya* for Disklavier (2011), *Syke* for marimba and accordion (2013), *Balanos* for organ and fixed media (2013), *Ptelea* for bass clarinet (2014), *Morea* (2014) for violoncello, and *Ampelos* (2015) for solo voice and pre-recorded voices, in a series of pieces taking Josquin's lament as a starting point, each based on a particular 'reading' of the source text and taking the title of one of the eight types of hamadryad named in the Greek mythological tradition. *Aigeiros* is named for the hamadryad who was bonded to the black poplar.

Aigeiros was written for Cristián Alvear and lasts for twenty minutes.

Martin Iddon, Chesterfield, 30 June 2016

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VIII.



A single musical staff labeled VIII. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The staff contains a sequence of notes and rests, with some notes marked with a '+' sign above them. The notes are: G4, A4, Bb4, C5, D5, E5, F5, G5, A5, Bb5, C6, D6, E6, F6, G6, A6, Bb6, C7, D7, E7, F7, G7, A7, Bb7, C8, D8, E8, F8, G8, A8, Bb8, C9, D9, E9, F9, G9, A9, Bb9, C10, D10, E10, F10, G10, A10, Bb10, C11, D11, E11, F11, G11, A11, Bb11, C12, D12, E12, F12, G12, A12, Bb12, C13, D13, E13, F13, G13, A13, Bb13, C14, D14, E14, F14, G14, A14, Bb14, C15, D15, E15, F15, G15, A15, Bb15, C16, D16, E16, F16, G16, A16, Bb16, C17, D17, E17, F17, G17, A17, Bb17, C18, D18, E18, F18, G18, A18, Bb18, C19, D19, E19, F19, G19, A19, Bb19, C20, D20, E20, F20, G20, A20, Bb20, C21, D21, E21, F21, G21, A21, Bb21, C22, D22, E22, F22, G22, A22, Bb22, C23, D23, E23, F23, G23, A23, Bb23, C24, D24, E24, F24, G24, A24, Bb24, C25, D25, E25, F25, G25, A25, Bb25, C26, D26, E26, F26, G26, A26, Bb26, C27, D27, E27, F27, G27, A27, Bb27, C28, D28, E28, F28, G28, A28, Bb28, C29, D29, E29, F29, G29, A29, Bb29, C30, D30, E30, F30, G30, A30, Bb30, C31, D31, E31, F31, G31, A31, Bb31, C32, D32, E32, F32, G32, A32, Bb32, C33, D33, E33, F33, G33, A33, Bb33, C34, D34, E34, F34, G34, A34, Bb34, C35, D35, E35, F35, G35, A35, Bb35, C36, D36, E36, F36, G36, A36, Bb36, C37, D37, E37, F37, G37, A37, Bb37, C38, D38, E38, F38, G38, A38, Bb38, C39, D39, E39, F39, G39, A39, Bb39, C40, D40, E40, F40, G40, A40, Bb40, C41, D41, E41, F41, G41, A41, Bb41, C42, D42, E42, F42, G42, A42, Bb42, C43, D43, E43, F43, G43, A43, Bb43, C44, D44, E44, F44, G44, A44, Bb44, C45, D45, E45, F45, G45, A45, Bb45, C46, D46, E46, F46, G46, A46, Bb46, C47, D47, E47, F47, G47, A47, Bb47, C48, D48, E48, F48, G48, A48, Bb48, C49, D49, E49, F49, G49, A49, Bb49, C50, D50, E50, F50, G50, A50, Bb50, C51, D51, E51, F51, G51, A51, Bb51, C52, D52, E52, F52, G52, A52, Bb52, C53, D53, E53, F53, G53, A53, Bb53, C54, D54, E54, F54, G54, A54, Bb54, C55, D55, E55, F55, G55, A55, Bb55, C56, D56, E56, F56, G56, A56, Bb56, C57, D57, E57, F57, G57, A57, Bb57, C58, D58, E58, F58, G58, A58, Bb58, C59, D59, E59, F59, G59, A59, Bb59, C60, D60, E60, F60, G60, 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