Pamela J. Marshall

Loosely Blue

mandolin ensemble

dedicated to Marilynn Mair and Enigmaticca

Spindrift Music Company

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Publishing contemporary classical music
and promoting its performance and appreciation
Loosely Blue
by Pamela J. Marshall
for an octet of mandolins, mandolas, and mandocellos

I. Prelude
II. Mirage
III. Blue-Gold Variations

There are four parts: Mandolin I, Mandolin II, Mandola, Mandocello

Mandolin I requires 2 players. The other parts have occasional divisi and can be covered by one player if necessary. The mandola part is provided in treble clef (notated an octave higher) and alto clef. Some double-stops and chords are notated divisi. Double-stops that are not marked divisi can be played either way.

Loosely Blue is dedicated to Marilynn Mair, superb mandolinist and teacher at Roger Williams College in Rhode Island, and her ensemble Enigmatica, a group of skilled mandolinists, amateur and professional, from Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

The music is inspired by folk music. The shape and tonalities of the melodies and the structure of the phrases remind me of our various ethnic musics, but nothing is explicitly derived from a particular culture.

The short first movement starts with an atmospheric tremolo and gradually introduces its syncopated, unevenly accented melody. The second movement recalls the augmented intervals of Middle Eastern music. The middle section, marked misterioso, starts as a dialog between the first mandolins and mandocello, until all join a unison climax, followed by a return to the more mellow music of the beginning.

The variations combine two tunes, a simple pentatonic phrase and a widely spaced languid bluesy tune. After several variations on the bluesy second tune, the pentatonic tune from the introduction returns and energizes the languid quality of the other tune. The resulting energy propels the music forward until it really gallops along at the end. I sometimes describe it as duelling variations, but maybe it’s more that each tune eggs the other on in a complementary way.
Loosely Blue
for mandolin octet

I. Prelude

Allegro gioioso \( q = 100 - 106 \)

Mandolin 1

Mandolin II

Mandola

Mandocello

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II. Mirage

Restrained \( q = 66-70 \)
III. Blue-Gold Variations

Allegro con anima  \( q = 132 \)

\[ \text{mf legato} \]

\[ \text{pp} \]

\[ \text{mf legato} \]

\[ \text{pp} \]

\[ \text{pf} \]

\[ \text{pp} \]

\[ \text{pf} \]

\[ \text{mf} \text{ legato} \]

\[ \text{pp} \]

\[ \text{mf} \text{ legato} \]

\[ \text{pp} \]

\[ \text{pf} \]

\[ \text{pp} \]

\[ \text{pf} \]

\[ \text{pp} \]

\[ \text{mf} \text{ legato} \]

\[ \text{pp} \]

\[ \text{mf} \text{ legato} \]

\[ \text{pp} \]

\[ \text{pf} \]

\[ \text{pp} \]

\[ \text{mf} \text{ legato} \]
Languidly, with a bluesy feel $q = 72$

Poco piu mosso $q = 76$
Selected Music by Pamela J. Marshall

Orchestra
- Through the Mist (2222-2220, harp, 3pc, timp, strings) in 3 mvt.
- A chill wind in autumn (solo voice, 2222-4221-3pc, strings)
- Traditional Christmas (unison or 2pt chorus, 2222-4221, harp, 3pc, timp, strings)
- Three Appalachian Carols (2222-4231, harp, 2pc, timp, strings)

Keyboard
- Suite for harpsichord or piano
- Daydream for piano
- Wordless Prayer for piano
- Imagine That Time Stops for piano
- Stomp for piano

Vocal
- Ariel's Songs for high or medium voice and piano
- Remember the Old Songs for high voice and piano
- Sky's Mirror for voice and cello
- A chill wind in autumn for voice and piano

Strings
- Arcanum for solo violin
- Soliloquy for solo cello
- Elusive Sleep for cello and piano
- Pascal's Theorems for cello and double bass
- Triporte Suite for Intermediate violinist and piano
- Truth Becoming for string quartet

Winds & Brass
- Waves and Fountains for oboe, horn, piano
- Wanderer for brass quintet
- Hillside for brass quintet
- Colored Leaves for solo horn
- Star in the East (traditional carol) for 8 horns
- Also Sprach Zarathustra by R. Strauss - excerpts - for 8 horns

Recordings
- Noises, Sounds & Strange Airs (Clique Track)
  includes Soliloquy and Sky's Mirror
  performed by D'Anna Fortunato and Emmanuel Feldman
- Mandolin X 4 (Plucked String Inc.)
  includes Mandolin Night performed by Neil Gladd
- Enigmatica (Uncommon Strings)
  includes "Blue-Gold Variations" from Loosely Blue for mandolin ensemble