

Hongwei Cai

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# Tempest in Yellow

for solo cello  
(2019)



## Program Note

Inspired by Dorothea Tanning's painting *Tempête en jaune*, my solo cello piece ***Tempest in Yellow*** is a reflection while studying the painting, which is found in the Minneapolis Institute of Art. At first glance, the details in the painting were not easy to make out, except for the foreshortened woman's face. Four major parts, unveiled from the fragmented yellow canvas, hazily connected one with another, creating a circle as if revealing something hidden behind the canvas. Through its static frame, I perceive a dynamic image and abundant energy hidden within the warm tones. The painting conveys meaning through the viewer's experience, which is similar to our experience listening to music: people with different personal experiences interpret musical works differently. With regard to my composition, motifs, themes, and gestures came from my imagination when gazing at the painting, and I attempt to present the music in a way that corresponds with Tanning's original painting.

The first performance was given by Eve Richards at the University of Iowa School of Music Concert Hall, on September 8, 2019

Duration: ca. 5 min

## Performance Notes

(m)SP = (molto) sul ponticello  
ST = sul tasto  
ord. = ordinary bow position  
ric. = ricochet  
nVib. = non vibrato



Change gradually from one sound or one way of playing (etc.) to another.



Play around the area of the 4th - 9th harmonic and seek double layers of overtones, with distortion.

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♩ = 70

Sounding  
 Violoncello

*p* *f/p* *ppp*

ST *pp* *mp* *pp* *mf* *p* *f* *p* *mf* *p*

2 x *SP* *ord.* *G.P.* *SP*

*f* *p* *ff* *pp*

Vc. *f* *ppp*

17 *ord.* *G.P.* *ST* *SP*

19 *nVib.* *poco vib. (gliss. between intervals)* *mSP* *ord.* *ST* *mSP* *tr*

*ff* *mf* *pp* *f*

23 (tr)~ SP ord. 3 SP ST ord. 5 SP

*f* *mp* *mf* *f* *mf* *ff*

25 ord. 3 SP ord. SP ord.

*p* *f* *f* *ff* *f*

28 ST ord. SP ord.

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

31 (II) gliss. SP

*p* *f* *ff*

33 gliss. cresc.

*pp*

34 gliss. mSP tr white noise

*ff* *pp* *f* *p*

$\text{♩} = 60$

*f* *gliss.* *fff* *pp*

G.P. in limping rhythm

Vc.

40

*f* *pp* *ad lib.*

arco SP dist. LH pizz. arco

pizz. *ff* *pp*

*ad lib.*

46

*f* *mp* *f* *ff* *pp* *f* *ff* *mp*

ric. pizz. arco SP dist. LH pizz. arco SP dist. ric.

*ad lib.*

52

*ff* *p* *mf* *pp* *mp* *ff* *p* *ff* *mf*

SP dist. ric. SP dist. SP dist.

*pp* *p* *ppp* *p*

SP ric.

FINE