

Alexandra Gardner

---

# Coyote Turns

---

string quartet

(2004)

PERUSAL SCORE — NOT FOR PERFORMANCE

[alexandragardner.net](http://alexandragardner.net)

---

A. Gardner Music

### **About *Coyote Turns***

*Coyote* is written for and dedicated to the ensemble Percussions de Barcelona. It is scored for 4 players – one on 4-octave marimba, one on vibraphone, and two on 5-octave marimba. The piece consists of five continuous movements bearing the following titles:

1. openings
2. filigree
3. intensities
4. ecstatic
5. tumble

The composition is constructed from a small amount of musical material built into several short intertwining rhythmic phrases. These phrases appear and reappear throughout the piece, always within a different framework. They enter from and exit to completely different pathways each time. At times the music flashes through a series of these rhythmic blocks, while at other times it travels through a slow building up or tearing down of a phrase.

While working on this music, I was reading Indigenous American tales about the Coyote. Traditionally, the Coyote is characterized as a trickster or prankster and often appears when life becomes too serious. He creates elaborate plans to achieve some goal that often end up backfiring or taking humorous unexpected turns. Some Coyote stories teach lessons about how to behave by showing what *not* to do! In a few stories, it is Coyote who places the stars in the sky and creates the constellations. I am particularly interested in this aspect of Coyote—his artistic side, painting animals and legends with stars. Sometimes he is instructed to do so, or sometimes he takes the task upon himself, but in either situation he completes the process by flinging his bag of leftover stars into the sky. It is the playfulness and creative spirit of Coyote—the surprising twists and turns that carefully made plans often take—that are expressed in the music.

#### **First Performance**

March 29, 2007

North River Music, Greenwich House Music School  
New York, NY

Performed by Ne(x)tnetworks

#### **Duration**

16:00

[alexandragardner.net](http://alexandragardner.net)

---

A Gardner Music

Duration: ca. 14'

# Coyote Turns

openings

Alexandra Gardner

lightly, slight pushing feel  $\bullet = 88$

Musical score for measures 1-7. The score is in 2/4 time and features four staves: violin 1, violin 2, viola, and cello. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The music begins with a *mp* dynamic and a *ff* dynamic. The violin 1 part has a triplet of eighth notes in measure 2. The viola and cello parts have a triplet of eighth notes in measure 2. The violin 2 part has a trill in measure 2. The dynamics are *mp*, *ff*, and *mp* for violin 1; *mp* and *ff* for violin 2; *mp* and *ff* for viola; and *mp* and *ff* for cello.

\* trills are whole-step unless otherwise indicated

Musical score for measures 8-15. The score continues with the same four staves. The violin 1 part has a *mf* dynamic. The violin 2 part has a trill in measure 8. The viola part has a *mf* dynamic. The cello part has a *sfz p* dynamic in measure 8 and a *ff* dynamic in measure 10. The dynamics are *mf* for violin 1; *mf* for violin 2; *mf* for viola; and *sfz p* and *ff* for cello.

Musical score for measures 16-23. The score continues with the same four staves. The violin 1 part has a *ff* dynamic. The violin 2 part has a trill in measure 16. The viola part has a *ff* dynamic. The cello part has a *sfz p* dynamic in measure 16 and a *ff* dynamic in measure 18. The dynamics are *ff* for violin 1; *ff* for violin 2; *ff* for viola; and *sfz p* and *ff* for cello. The cello part has a glissando in measure 23.

23

vln. 1

vln. 2

vla.

vc.

gliss.

*f* *mp* *sfz p* *ff* *sfz p*

3

30

vln. 1

vln. 2

vla.

vc.

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

37

vln. 1

vln. 2

vla.

vc.

rit. lyrical ♩ = 72

*f* *ff* *mf*

*f* *ff* *mf*

*f* *ff* *mf*

*f* *ff* *mf*

pizz.

43

vln. 1

vln. 2

vla.

vc.

arco

*p*

*p*

49 **playful, romping**

vln. 1

vln. 2

vla.

vc.

*mf*

*mf*

*mf*

*mf*

pizz.

*p*

54

vln. 1

vln. 2

vla.

vc.

arco

58

58

vln. 1

vln. 2

vla.

vc.

3/4

This system contains measures 58 through 62. The first violin part (vln. 1) features a melodic line with eighth notes and some rests. The second violin part (vln. 2) plays a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes. The viola part (vla.) continues with eighth notes. The cello part (vc.) plays a steady eighth-note accompaniment. The time signature is 3/4.

63

63

vln. 1

vln. 2

vla.

vc.

3/4

*f*

*f*

*f*

This system contains measures 63 through 66. The first violin part (vln. 1) has a melodic line with eighth notes and a fermata at the end of measure 66. The second violin part (vln. 2) plays eighth notes. The viola part (vla.) plays eighth notes. The cello part (vc.) plays eighth notes. The time signature is 3/4. Dynamic markings of *f* (forte) are present in measures 65 and 66.

67

67

vln. 1

vln. 2

vla.

vc.

*ff*

*ff*

This system contains measures 67 through 70. The first violin part (vln. 1) features a melodic line with eighth notes and accents, starting with a dynamic marking of *ff* (fortissimo). The second violin part (vln. 2) plays eighth notes. The viola part (vla.) plays eighth notes with accents and a dynamic marking of *ff*. The cello part (vc.) plays eighth notes. The time signature is 3/4.

71

vln. 1

vln. 2

vla.

vc.

*f* *ff*

*ff* *ff*

*ff*

*ff*

PERUSAL SCORE — NOT FOR PERFORMANCE

filigree

1 shimmering ♩ = 100

violin 1  
violin 2  
viola  
cello

6  
vln. 1  
vln. 2  
vla.  
vc.

12  
vln. 1  
vln. 2  
vla.  
vc.

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

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

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

*mp*

*pp* *p*

*mp*

*mp* *mp* *mp* *mp* *mp* *mp*

*mp* *mp* *mp* *mp* *mp* *mp*

*mp*

pizz.  
arco swinging



18

vln. 1

vln. 2

vla.

vc.

*mf* *p*

*mf*

*mf*

23

vln. 1

vln. 2

vla.

vc.

*mf* *p* *mf*

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

28

vln. 1

vln. 2

vla.

vc.

*f*

*f*

*f*

32

vln. 1

vln. 2

vla.

vc.

*mf*

38

vln. 1

vln. 2

vla.

vc.

*mp*

*ppp*

*mp*

46

vln. 1

vln. 2

vla.

vc.

*p*

*ppp*

*p*

*ppp*

*p*

*ppp*

*p*

*ppp*

intensities

mysterious  $\bullet = 92$

violin 1  
violin 2  
viola  
cello

6

vln. 1  
vln. 2  
vla.  
vc.

10

vln. 1  
vln. 2  
vla.  
vc.

*p*  $\text{—————}$  *mp*

14

Violin 1 (vln. 1) and Violin 2 (vln. 2) parts feature melodic lines with slurs and accents. The Viola (vla.) part consists of sustained chords. The Violoncello (vc.) part has a wavy line indicating tremolo. Dynamics include *mp*.

19

rit.  $\bullet = 80$

Violin 1 (vln. 1) has a long note with a slur. Violin 2 (vln. 2) and Viola (vla.) play chords with 'vz' markings. Violoncello (vc.) has a 'pizz.' marking. Dynamics include *mf* and *p*.

23

Violin 1 (vln. 1) has a long note with a slur. Violin 2 (vln. 2) and Viola (vla.) play chords. Violoncello (vc.) has a wavy line indicating tremolo. Dynamics include *mf*.

26

Score for measures 26-28. The system includes staves for Violin 1 (vln. 1), Violin 2 (vln. 2), Viola (vla.), and Violoncello (vc.).

- vln. 1:** Treble clef, playing a melodic line with slurs and ties.
- vln. 2:** Treble clef, playing a harmonic accompaniment of chords.
- vla.:** Bass clef, playing a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes.
- vc.:** Bass clef, playing a simple bass line with quarter notes.

29

Score for measures 29-33. The system includes staves for Violin 1 (vln. 1), Violin 2 (vln. 2), Viola (vla.), and Violoncello (vc.).

- vln. 1:** Treble clef, playing a melodic line with slurs and ties. Dynamic markings: *f* at measure 31.
- vln. 2:** Treble clef, playing a harmonic accompaniment. Dynamic markings: *mf* at measure 31.
- vla.:** Bass clef, playing a rhythmic accompaniment. Dynamic markings: *mf* at measure 31.
- vc.:** Bass clef, playing a simple bass line. Dynamic markings: *mf* at measure 31.

34

Score for measures 34-38. The system includes staves for Violin 1 (vln. 1), Violin 2 (vln. 2), Viola (vla.), and Violoncello (vc.).

- vln. 1:** Treble clef, playing a melodic line with slurs and ties. Dynamic markings: *mp* at measure 36.
- vln. 2:** Treble clef, playing a harmonic accompaniment. Dynamic markings: *ff* at measure 36, *mp* at measure 37.
- vla.:** Bass clef, playing a rhythmic accompaniment. Dynamic markings: *ff* at measure 36, *mp* at measure 37.
- vc.:** Bass clef, playing a simple bass line.

41

vln. 1

vln. 2

vla.

vc.

*mf*

*pp*

*ff*

arco

47

vln. 1

vln. 2

vla.

vc.

51

vln. 1

vln. 2

vla.

vc.

*mf*

55 **agitato**

vln. 1

vln. 2

vla.

vc.

59 **frenetico**

vln. 1

vln. 2

vla.

vc.

*f*

63

vln. 1

vln. 2

vla.

vc.

*ff* *p* *ff*

*ff* *f* *ff*

*ff* *ff* *f*

66

66  
vln. 1  
vln. 2  
vla.  
vc.

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

66-68: Musical score for measures 66-68. The score is for four staves: vln. 1, vln. 2, vla., and vc. Measure 66 shows a rest for vln. 1 and 2, and a wavy line for vc. Measures 67-68 feature complex dynamics and articulation. A large watermark 'PERUSAL SCORE NOT FOR PERFORMANCE' is visible across the page.

69

69  
vln. 1  
vln. 2  
vla.  
vc.

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

69-72: Musical score for measures 69-72. The score is for four staves: vln. 1, vln. 2, vla., and vc. Measure 69 starts with *mf* dynamics. Measures 70-72 feature *f* and *ff* dynamics. A *8va* marking is present above the vln. 1 staff in measure 71. The score ends with a double bar line and repeat dots. A large watermark 'PERUSAL SCORE NOT FOR PERFORMANCE' is visible across the page.



ecstatic

**enérgico** ♩ = 120

violin 1  
*f* sempre

violin 2  
*f* sempre

viola  
*f* sempre

cello  
cello plays second time only  
*f* sempre

4

vln. 1  
*simile*

vln. 2

vla.

vc.

9

vln. 1

vln. 2

vla.

vc.

14

vln. 1 *ff*

vln. 2 *ff*

vla. *ff*

vc. *ff* *f*

18

vln. 1 *p* *ff*

vln. 2 *p* *ff*

vla. *p* *f*

vc. *p* *f*

*molto rit.* -----

23 gentle, lyrical ♩ = 78

vln. 1 *p* *mp*

vln. 2 *p* *mp* pizz.

vla. *p* *mp*

vc. *p* *mp*

27 **intense** ♩ = 78 **gentle, lyrical** ♩ = 78

vln. 1

vln. 2

vla.

vc.

*f* arco

*f*

*mp* pizz.

*mp*

*f*

*mp*

32 **ferocious** ♩ = 78

vln. 1

vln. 2

vla.

vc.

*ff* arco

*f*

*f*

*f*

38 **solo**

vln. 1

vln. 2

vla.

vc.

*f*

46 **molto accel.** **ecstatic** ♩ = 120

vln. 1 *ff* *ff* sempre

vln. 2 *ff* *ff* sempre

vla. *ff* *f* sempre

vc. *ff* *f* sempre

52

vln. 1 *p* *ff*

vln. 2 *p* *ff*

vla. *p* *f*

vc. *p* *f*

56 **molto rit.** **gentle, lyrical** ♩ = 78

vln. 1 *p* *mp*

vln. 2 *p* *mp* pizz.

vla. *p* *mp*

vc. *p* *mp*

61  $\text{♩} = 80$

vln. 1

vln. 2

vla.

vc.

*pp*

*p*

arco

*p*

*mp*

*pp*

*pp*

*p*

68

vln. 1

vln. 2

vla.

vc.

*mp*

*pp*

*p*

*pp*

*p*

*mp*

*p*

*mp*

74

vln. 1

vln. 2

vla.

vc.

*mp* sempre

*p*

*mp* sempre

*mp* sempre

*mp* sempre

*mp* sempre



93

Score for measures 93-98. The score is for four instruments: Violin 1 (vln. 1), Violin 2 (vln. 2), Viola (vla.), and Violoncello (vc.). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. Measure 93 starts with a repeat sign. The first violin part has a dynamic marking of *pp*. The second violin part has a dynamic marking of *p*. The viola part has a dynamic marking of *p*. The cello part has a dynamic marking of *p*. The score ends with a repeat sign in measure 98.

99

Score for measures 99-103. The score is for four instruments: Violin 1 (vln. 1), Violin 2 (vln. 2), Viola (vla.), and Violoncello (vc.). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. Measure 99 starts with a repeat sign. The first violin part has a dynamic marking of *pp*. The second violin part has a dynamic marking of *pp*. The viola part has a dynamic marking of *pp*. The cello part has a dynamic marking of *p*. The score ends with a repeat sign in measure 103.

PERUSAL SCORE — NOT FOR PERFORMANCE

tumble

enérgico ♩ = 120

violin 1  
*pp* *f* sempre

violin 2  
*pp* *f* sempre

viola  
*pp* *f* sempre

cello  
pizz. *ff* arco *f* sempre

vln. 1

vln. 2

vla.

vc.

vln. 1 simile

vln. 2 simile

vla.

vc.

*ff* *f*





26

vln. 1

vln. 2

vla.

vc.

*mf* sempre

cello plays 2nd time only

*mf* sempre

30

vln. 1

vln. 2

vla.

vc.

34

vln. 1

vln. 2

vla.

vc.

38

vln. 1

vln. 2

vla.

vc.

tumbling

43

vln. 1

vln. 2

vla.

vc.

51

vln. 1

vln. 2

vla.

vc.

58

vln. 1  
vln. 2  
vla.  
vc.

This system contains measures 58 through 65. The first violin (vln. 1) part features a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with stems pointing up. The second violin (vln. 2) part consists of sustained chords with a melodic line in the upper voice. The viola (vla.) part has a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with stems pointing down. The violin (vc.) part has a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with stems pointing down. A large diagonal watermark 'PERFORMANCE SCORE - NOT FOR PERFORMANCE' is overlaid across the page.

66

vln. 1  
vln. 2  
vla.  
vc.

This system contains measures 66 through 72. The instrumentation and parts are consistent with the previous system. The first violin (vln. 1) continues with eighth notes. The second violin (vln. 2) continues with sustained chords. The viola (vla.) continues with eighth notes. The violin (vc.) continues with eighth notes. A large diagonal watermark 'PERFORMANCE SCORE - NOT FOR PERFORMANCE' is overlaid across the page.

73

vln. 1  
vln. 2  
vla.  
vc.

*mp* *pp*  
*mp* *pp*  
*mp* *pp*  
*p*

This system contains measures 73 through 80. The first violin (vln. 1) part has a dynamic marking of *mp* and a change in time signature to 3/4 at measure 76. The second violin (vln. 2) part has dynamic markings of *mp* and *pp*. The viola (vla.) part has dynamic markings of *mp* and *pp*. The violin (vc.) part has a dynamic marking of *p*. A large diagonal watermark 'PERFORMANCE SCORE - NOT FOR PERFORMANCE' is overlaid across the page.

81 excitedly ♩ = 112

vln. 1  
*f*

vln. 2  
*f*

vla.  
*mf*

vc.  
*sfz*

86

vln. 1  
*f* sempre

vln. 2  
*f* sempre

vla.  
*mf*

vc.

92

vln. 1

vln. 2

vla.  
*mf*

vc.  
*f*

100

vln. 1 simile

vln. 2 simile

vla.

vc.

107

vln. 1

vln. 2

vla. *ff* *p*

vc.

115

vln. 1 *ff*

vln. 2 *ff*

vla. *ff*

vc. *ff*

123

vln. 1

vln. 2

vla.

vc.

PERUSAL SCORE — NOT FOR PERFORMANCE