

Le lacrime di Firenze The Tears of Florence

Ana Rubio

6 minutes and 2 seconds

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Contents

Instrumentation:

Woodwinds

Piccolo (Picc.)
Flute (Fl.)
Oboe (Ob.)
Bb Clarinet (Cl. in Bb)
Bb Bass Clarinet (B. Cl.)
Alto Saxophone (A. Sax.)
Tenor Saxophone (T. Sax.)

Baritone Saxophone (Bar. Sax.)

Bassoon (Bsn.)

Brass

Bb Trumpet (Tpt. in Bb) F Horn (Hn. in F) Trombone (Tbn.) Euphonium (Euph.) Tuba (Tba.)

Percussion

Chimes (Cme.)/ Vibraphone (Vib.)
Bass Drum (BD)
Tom Toms (Toms)/ Rainstick (Rs)/ Tam-Tam (Tam)/ Shaker (Sh.)
Tambourine (Tamb.)/ Rainstick (Rs)/ Mark Tree (Mk. Tr.)/ Triangle (Trgl.)

Performance Instruction:

Special Noteheads

♦ = blowing wind without distinguishable pitch

The diamond-shaped notehead is seen in the brass section and is supposed to replicate the Florentine winds on a stormy day.

Chimes

The chimes are supposed to sound like the sacred Florentine bell towers heard around the city. They sound bold and like a bell swinging back and forth.

Car and Ambulance Sounds

MM. 18 - 20, the trumpets and alto saxophones are supposed to sound loud and obnoxious, with a slightly distorted tone. They are supposed to replicate the sounds of the sirens and the car horns heard in Florence.

Programme Notes:

The piece is a journey through the human psyche and a dance through the Florentine Renaissance (for the most part). You are greeted by a lively Piccolo player who opens the gates to Firenze. As you walk down the street, you suddenly hear ambulance sirens and car horns. The sounds remind you that you are in modern-day Florence, but you soon transport to the Renaissance as you hear the church bells ringing.

The first artist's workshop is Filippino Lippi's. He is working diligently on a triptych with two paintings of the Saints Mary Magdalene and John the Baptist. The centerpiece (the Crucifixion) is missing. The two Saints are weak, frail, and sickly. The bags under their eyes are hollow, their cheeks are bones, and their bodies are eaten till only their skeleton show. This heartbreaking scene depicts the physical manifestations of grief. Outside, you hear the strong winds and rain causing damage to the city, paralleling the damage done by grief.

Walking through Florence, you enter the workshop of Leonardo Da Vinci, painting *The Adoration of the Magi*. In the foreground of the painting, there is a depiction of Mary holding Jesus, who reaches out to and is being adorned by the three Magi who bear gifts to him. In the middle ground, there is a depiction of various Saints with pained expressions, resembling the fears of Italians that Da Vinci saw in life. In the background, there is fighting, destruction, and ruins to show the battle that Italy underwent. While painting his masterpiece, Da Vinci rambles to you about his new egg paint, his attempts at a flying machine, and so on. As his thoughts swirl around, you remember a scholar mentioning that Da Vinci was thought to have ADHD.

After walking through Florence again, we enter Michelangelo's workshop where he paints *Venus and Cupid*. Michelangelo paints a beautiful Venus being kissed on the lips by her baby Cupid. However, hidden in the corner of the painting is a dead man and two masks. The two masks represent the two-faced nature of humans. One of the masks is virtue, and the other is vice. Michelangelo opens up to you, speaking of a deep melancholy and torment that he feels. His depiction of the masks and the dead man could be a depiction of his unresolved depression.

Finally, you teleport to Luigi Pampaloni's workshop in 1839, where he sculpts a funerary statue for Count Vincenzo. You see a dead mother made of stone holding her son's hand. Her son, only a child, weeps beside her as he holds his mother's lifeless hand. This intense sense of grief was depicted beautifully by the boy's posture and facial expression. His scream for his mother to stay by his side forever.

Before you leave Firenze, you return to the Renaissance. The playful Piccolo player winks at you as you finish your final dance. You pop a florin into his hat and bid him farewell.

Artworks:

Buonarroti, Michelangelo. *Venus and Cupid*. 1532. Da Vinci, Leonardo. *Adoration of the Magi*. 1481. Lippi, Filippino. *Saint John the Baptist; Saint Mary Magdalene*. 1500. Pampoloni, Luigi. *Burial Monument to Maria Radzwille Krasinski with Her Son Zygmunt*. 1839.

Dedication and Thanks:

This piece is dedicated to Florence, Italy. Firenze was a beautiful place that I was privileged to experience in person. It is filled with magic in art. I would also like to express my gratitude to Dr. Federico Pacchioni for offering this beautiful experience to go to Florence. It was an unforgettable journey. Thomas Yamada, thank you for being my musical editor and tutor. Lastly, thank you to all of the people in my life who supported me in my musical journey.

I hope you hear the beauty of Firenze as you listen to my piece. To conclude, my music is also dedicated to the sick, to those who need healing. You are not alone, and you **can** seek <u>help</u>. You deserve it!

Publications:

Sapere Aude Creative Journal, Chapman University, May 2025 To be announced

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