

# Piccolo Profile

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## Lachrymose

by Derek Charke

Lachrymose, by Canadian flutist-composer Derek Charke, is an ethereal piece which takes in the full range of the piccolo and requires the player to use a variety of timbres. The piece features the “sing-and-play” technique, wherein the performer sings a single, sustained pitch while playing a rhythmic ostinato above it. The dynamic swells and changing harmonies in the instrumental line, in combination with the human voice, create a highly evocative soundscape which alternates between ethereal and haunting, and aggressive, rhythmical sections. Also used are multiple trills and basic multiphonics, all coming together for an evocative performance.

Over the course of eight minutes, listeners are taken on a journey that spans the full range and all timbres of the piccolo’s unique voice. Part of the piece uses proportional notation while the rest is scored in standard, measured notation. Lachrymose is best suited to a competent piccolo player, or a flutist with some experience in extended techniques. It works well on recitals due to its engaging array of textures and colours, and beautiful melodic contours.

This is a sample repertoire profile for one of my favourite contemporary pieces for solo piccolo. For more contemporary repertoire profiles, please check back later this year for my new blog at [moderntwig.ca](http://moderntwig.ca)