Dust, Mirror, and Bodhi Tree

for 2 piccolos and piano

Op. 19

Lance Mok

London: March 2023

ca. 4½ mins

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「菩提本無樹
明鏡亦非臺
本來無一物
何處惹塵埃」

— 六祖惠能

The beginning of all human sufferings—the pain of life and eternal reincarnation—is the slightest thread of obsessive thoughts. If one sees through the façade of materialistic manifestations of the metaphysical reality, obsession (dust) and the sufferings it brings will have no solidity to cling to in one's heart (clear mirror) and enlightenment (Bodhi tree). Such was the essence of the Buddhist patriarch Huineng's famous gatha, from which the title of the work *Dust, Mirror, and Bodhi Tree* was derived.

Exploiting the purity in the interval of perfect fifths and the timbre of the piccolos especially in their lower registers, the piece opens with a stoic calmness, only to be disturbed by a dissonant figure that creeps into the texture and becomes growingly obsessive. Through much bitter darkness, the piccolos eventually soar into awakening and liberation. Calmness is reinstated, perhaps with more wisdom this time, while the cosmic clockwork, as it always has been, remains uninterrupted.

The work was premiered by flautists Ivy Chuang and Wong Ka Wing Karen, and the composer in All Saints Church, High Wycombe, United Kingdom on 20th March 2023.

Instrumentation: 2 piccolos and piano

Score

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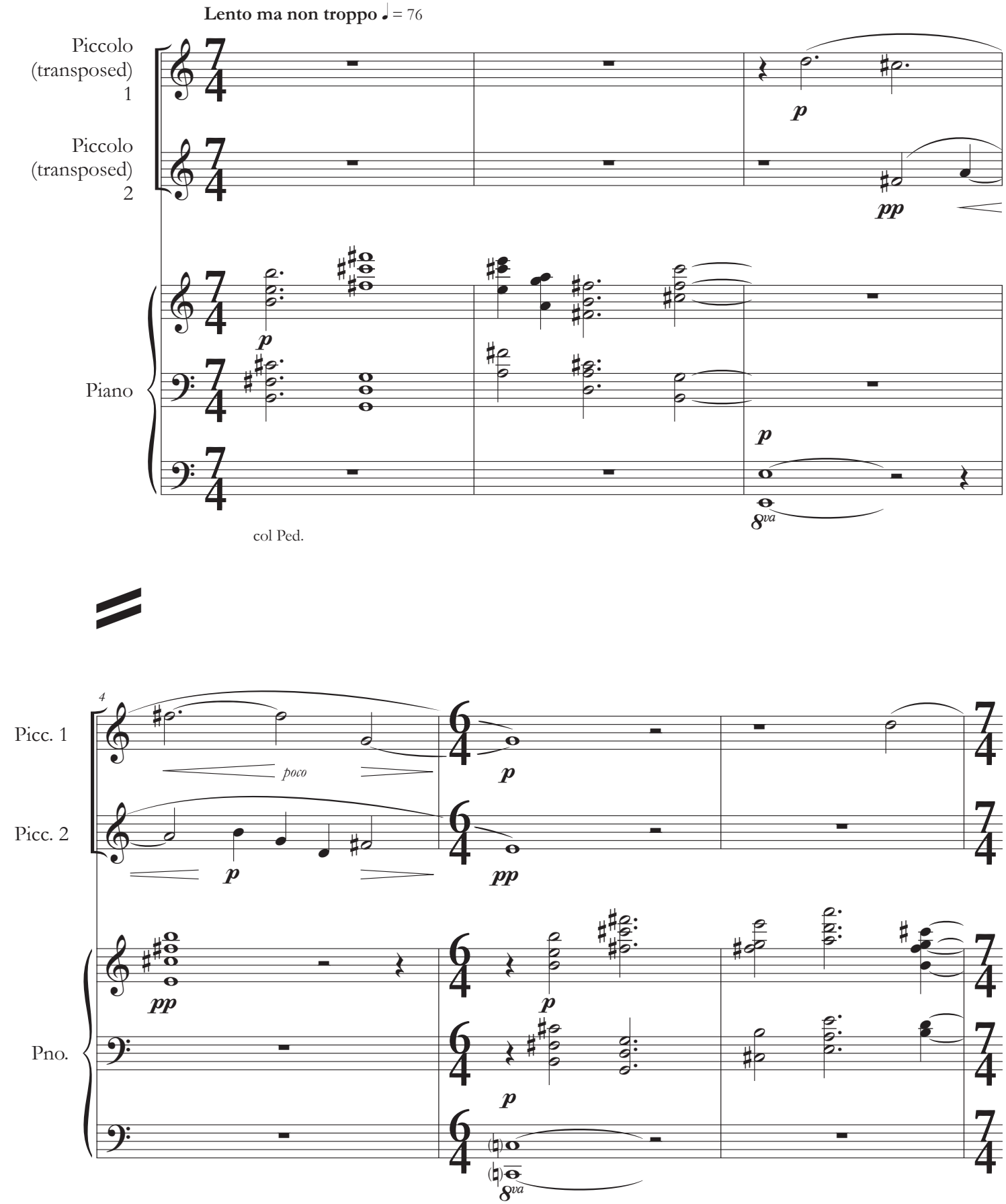

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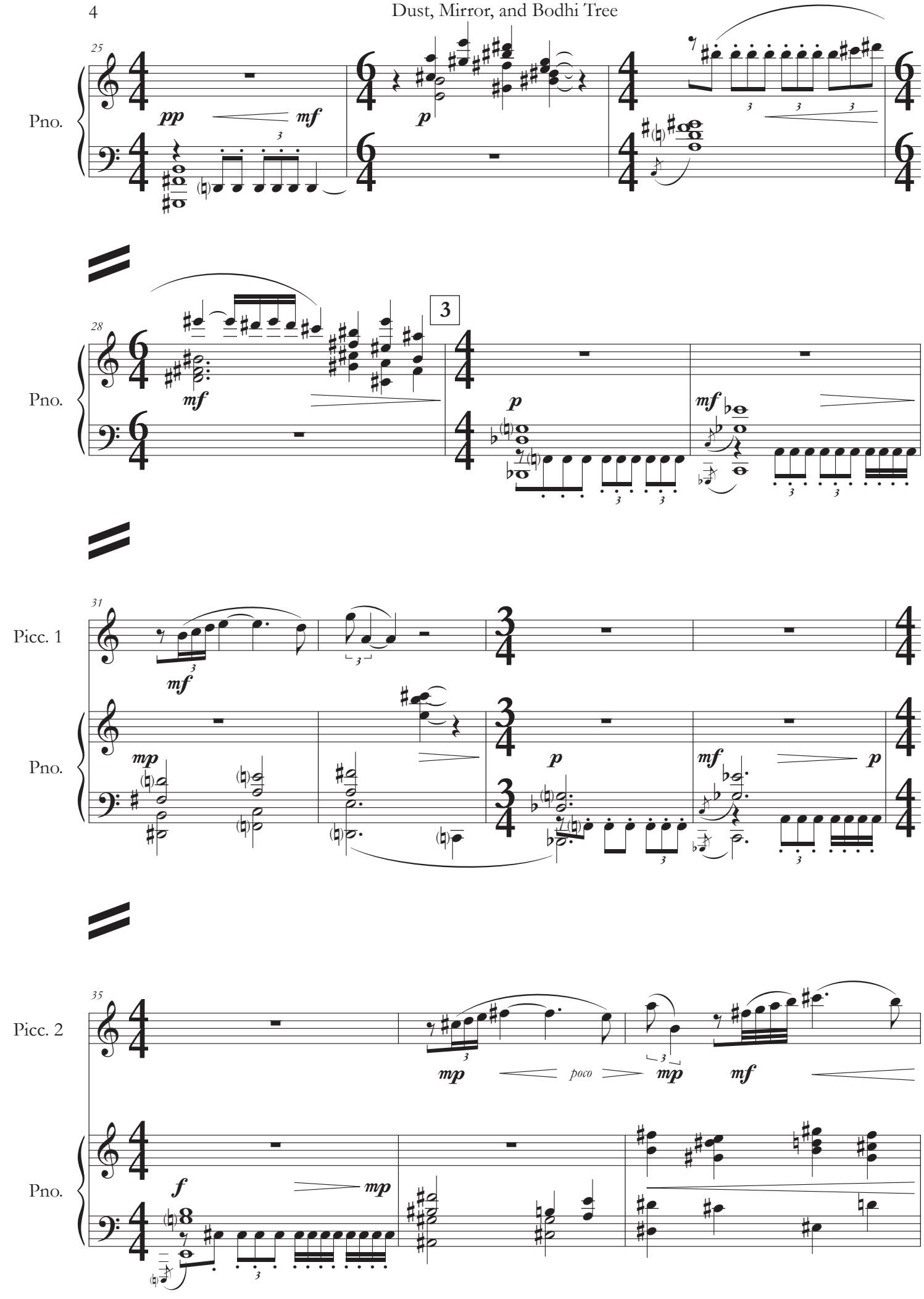
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