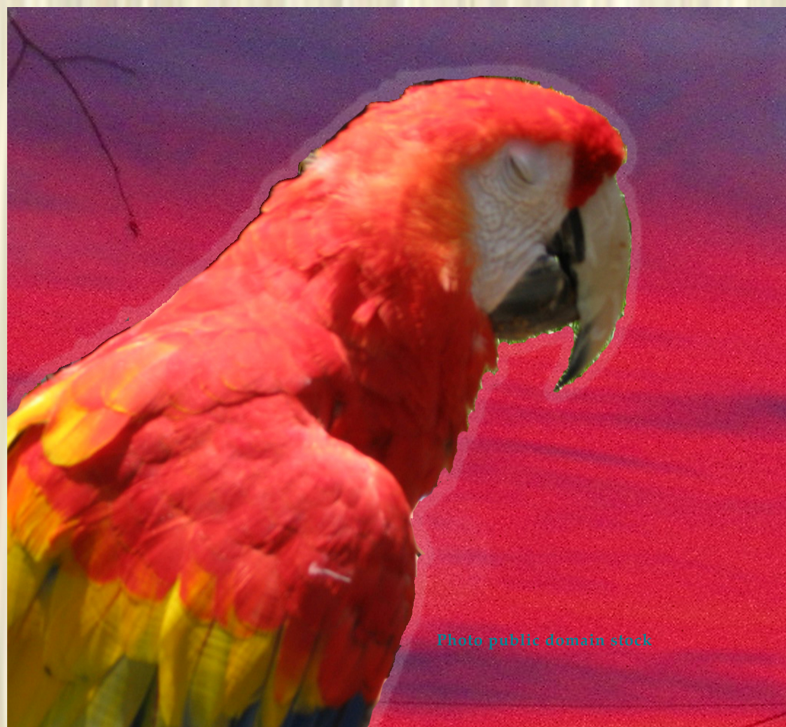


BURDICK

The King of the Birds

**For Narrator
Flute
Violin
and
Harpsichord**



Opus 59
(1990)

The King of the Birds

For Narrator, Flute Violin and Harpsichord

Richard Burdick
Opus 59

c. 1990

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For more information on the work visit:

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The King of the Birds, Op. 59

for narrator, flute, violin and harpsichord

Richard O. Burdick

Op. 59

Davis, Calif: 1990

Narrator:

Long ago, when the Mayans were living in the Mountains of what is now Peru on the west coast of South America, things were different. Flowers, birds, trees and animals wore other colors and shapes than those we see today.

Andante ♩ = 88 m. m.

Flute

Violin

Harpsichord

Andante ♩ = 88 m. m.

2

mf

8

9

10

11

f *p* *f* *p*

The great spirt, Halach-Uinic (ha lak u nic) guarded all Mayaland, and his word was law.

12

A Poco meno mosso ♩ = 80 m. m.

mp

A Poco meno mosso ♩ = 80 m. m.

dolce *mp*

mp

12

13

14

15

17

3

One day Halach-Uinic grew
tired of the constant chatter
and fighting among the birds.

*Therefore Halach decided to
appoint a bird leader so that the
birds could make peace and be
quiet in Halach's world.*

21

f

f

4 22 **B** Tempo 1 ♩ = 88 m. m. rit.

f *f* *rit.*

Calling for Xtun-tun-kinil (Sh-tun-tun-ke-nel) the roadrunner, chief of the messengers,

Halach sent word to all the birds to meet the next day in the center of the forest.

27 **C** Fast ♩ = 112 m. m. accel.

mp *mf* *mf* *accel.* *mf* *accel.* *f* <

There they would elect a leader;

D Tempo 1 ♩ = 88 m. m.

5

33

fff

fff

f

fff

fff

mp

mp

pizz.

pp

D Tempo 1 ♩ = 88 m. m.

a strong ruler who would keep things quiet for the great spirit.

39

ppp

arco

pizz.

mp

43

As each bird learned of the election they all began to boast of their best qualities. Col-pol-che

(kol pol che) the cardinal sang "Look at me! No one else is bright red and as beautiful as I. All the birds admire me. I should be queen" And she strutted before her audience fluttering her wings and raising her crest .

48 **E**

E

49

pp *p* *mf*

arco *f* *ff*

p *f*

X-col-col-chek (she col col
chek) the mockingbird trilled
"I'm the only bird with such a
lovely voice. Listen . . ."

53

F

sultato

F

8

Her concert caused
much awe among the
birds but the great spirit
grumbled about the noise.

The wild turkey,
Cutz, strode into
the middle of the
circle and
gobbled

56

G

fl.

"There's no doubt I should be your ruler. Am I not the strongest Bird? With my size and strength, I can stop any fight and defend any bird in trouble."

59

p

mp

mf

f

p

mf

f

You need a powerful
king and I'm the one!"

Kukul (koo kul) the quetzal
bird remained quiet.
He listened patiently to
each bird tell why each be
leader but he didn't dare
compete. Kukul was very
ambitious and Proud. He had
fine manners and a graceful
body but his feathers were
shabby and rather dull, and
he thought his clothing
would keep him from being
the leader.

63 **H**

silence

silence

silence

64 **I** Suddenly he had an idea!

Kukul flew over to his friend X tun-tun-kinil the Roadrunner

Slow ♩ = 69 m. m.

Slow ♩ = 69 m. m.

Kukul flew over to his friend Xtun-tun--kinil the Roadrunner and said "I would like to make you an offer. Your feathers are as handsome as any bird's here, but you are too busy with your work as a messenger to become the leader. Would you loan me your plumage for the contest.

When I'm elected I'll share the wealth and honors with you."

67 **J**

71

Xtun was silent as he thought of the glory he would have if he were the closest friend of the ruler of the birds. It was a tempting offer but he did not care to part with his beautiful plumage.

11

Kukul kept chattering and assuring Xtun-tun of his honesty and his good intentions. He described scenes of the riches to come.

Piu mosso ♩ = 92 m. m.

L

76 **K**

K **L** **Piu mosso** ♩ = 92 m. m.

pizz.

80

arco

At last the
roadrunner
was convinced

84

M

M

ff

and he removed his feathers one by one and lent them to the clever
quetzal who fixed them on his body as if they were his own.

Slower ♩ = 60 m. m.

88

N

pizz.

mf

N **Slower** ♩ = 60 m. m.

Within minutes the quetzal was dressed in the most splendid costume. Kukul's tail hung in a sweeping curve of jade green plumes. His body shimmered with soft blues and greens like the Mayan sky and jungle. His breast blazed with the red of a tropical sunset. Swinging his lovely long tail in an arc, the bold bird promenaded into the clearing where all the birds of Mayaland were assembled.

90

Musical score for measures 90-97. The score is written for three staves: a vocal line (treble clef), a piano accompaniment line (treble clef), and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is B-flat major (two flats). The vocal line features a melody with various note values, including quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, and rests. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and single notes in both hands.

98

Musical score for measures 98-105. The score is written for three staves: a vocal line (treble clef), a piano accompaniment line (treble clef), and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is B-flat major (two flats). The vocal line continues the melody from the previous section. The piano accompaniment continues with chords and single notes in both hands.

His entrance
caused a hush,

A Tempo ♩ = 88 m. m.

102 **O**

arco

O **A Tempo** ♩ = 88 m. m.

and then cries of 'Bravo,' 'Hurrah,' 'Oh,' and 'ah' filled the forest. Some birds twitched their tails in envy others squawked in surprise. There was not one who did not feel some jealousy at the sight of this beautiful new bird. Of course they did not recognize kukul.

108 **P**

f *mf* *f* *f*

P

Halach-Uinic was pleased since he knew of kukul's deception and thought "he is a ruler whom I can control" The Great Spirit called the crowd to order and declared,
"I name the quetzal to be leader of the birds."

114

Musical score for measures 114-116. The score is written for three staves: two treble clefs and one grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The key signature is B-flat major (two flats). Measure 114: Treble 1 has a whole rest, Treble 2 has a quarter note G4, and the grand staff has a half note G2. Measure 115: Treble 1 has a whole rest, Treble 2 has a quarter note A4, and the grand staff has a half note A2. Measure 116: Treble 1 has a whole rest, Treble 2 has a quarter note B4, and the grand staff has a half note B2.

117

Musical score for measures 117-119. The score is written for three staves: two treble clefs and one grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The key signature is B-flat major (two flats). Measure 117: Treble 1 has a whole rest, Treble 2 has a quarter note G4, and the grand staff has a half note G2. Measure 118: Treble 1 has a whole rest, Treble 2 has a quarter note A4, and the grand staff has a half note A2. Measure 119: Treble 1 has a whole rest, Treble 2 has a quarter note B4, and the grand staff has a half note B2. The grand staff in measure 119 includes dynamic markings *f* and *p* for the treble and bass staves.

16¹¹⁹ **Q** poco meno
mosso ♩ = 80 m. m.

mp

Q poco meno
mosso ♩ = 80 m. m.

mp

A loud flapping of wings followed this announcement as each bird fluttered over to Kukul to offer congratulations. Then a big party was given in kukul's honor, and after this all the birds flew home and left him to begin his new duties as leader.

125 **R**

R

R

3

S Faster ♩ = 120 m. m.

130

p

f

S Faster ♩ = 120 m. m.

136

S Faster ♩ = 120 m. m.

Kukul found himself so busy
that he had no time to return
the borrowed plumes. In fact
he was afraid to take them off
and soon forgot his promise to
the roadrunner. For a while
Kukul kept the birds from
fighting and the forest was quiet
for the Great spirit, BUT . . .

One day a group of the birds was meeting in a Chacah, or
Gumbo limbo, tree. One of the noticed that Xtun-tun-kinil
had not appeared. No one had seen him since the election.
They began to suspect that Kukul had played some kind of
trick and they immediately organized a search for the roadrunner.

A Tempo ♩ = 88 m. m.

144

p

gliss.

slide

A Tempo ♩ = 88 m. m.

mf *p*

146

p

gliss.

slide

At last deep in the jungle behind a Zipche, or coffee bush, they found the X-tun-tun-kinil naked and trembling with cold, half dead, and he kept crying, "Puhey? Puhey? Which sounds like "where is he? Where is he? in the Mayan language. Quickly, the birds gave him some balche, the sacred honey drink of the Mayas, to help him recover.

152

T

pizz. *f p f p f p f p* *arco* *arco* *f p f p*

161

f p *arco*

As soon as he was able,
Xtun-tunn told them about
the cruel trick played on
him by the quetzal bird.

The birds felt sorry for the roadrunner. They went
to kukul and told him that he should give back
Xtun-tun's feathers and resign. The Great Spirit didn't
want kukul out of office, he wanted kukul's clothing
kept secret. It would be impossible for the leader
to give his feathers back.

164

166

Each bird then gave a few plumes to cover the poor roadrunner. That is why today roadrunner's
plumage has so many colors and odd patterns

21

170

Each bird then gave a few plumes to cover the poor roadrunner. That is why today roadrunner's
plumage has so many colors and odd patterns

175

mp

arco
mp

mp

So the birds started singing and
chattering all the time in protest
of "Kukul the King."

182

f *f* *p* *p* *f* *f*

To this day the birds
sing and chatter all the time.

The Great Spirit has grown to love the music.

187

f *p* *mf*