

## **A Vyvirian Folk Tale**

**A Vyvirian Folk Tale** (The Merry Trickster) {2015} is a violin solo that continues in the tradition of Vyvirian Folk Songs, a flute solo that I had written previously. Both works contain dance-like aspects and singable melodies with virtuosic flourishes. Vyviria is a fictional land that I made up and attributed these pieces to. I felt that aspect of the original flute solo reminded me of a collection of folk songs and was compelled to come up with a fake place. A Vyvirian Folk Tale (The Merry Trickster) has a bit more of an overtly silly tone contrasted with a darker section in the middle. This made me think of the story at the core of Till Eulenspiegel (1894-1895) by Richard Strauss where the character causes trouble, was caught, and then is hanged, but with instead there is a change where the Trickster gets away at the end.

A Vyvirian Folk Tale (The Merry Trickster) was originally written for Miranda Cuckson who did readings of several student composers' works as part of the New Music Initiative. As my first solo violin piece, I wanted to take the opportunity to explore the instrument's ability to perform double stops so there are times where harmonies occur with the melody and times where there are two lines occurring simultaneously.

This recording was of a performance by Michelle Mills at my senior composition recital in 2017.

- Julian Ward -