

Blue and Yellow
program note

This compact and sunny piece was mostly composed in the bright light of the July 2005 sun on the west coast of central Italy, and it was finished on the equally brightly lit island of Hvar in the Croatian Adriatic a few weeks later.

“Blue and Yellow” was inspired by a fast walk I took one day on the Italian beach, during which I was overwhelmed by the bright blue and yellow light everywhere—in the water, on the beach and in the sky. This sensory overload effortlessly transformed itself into the musical patterns that permeate this piece; I hear the melodies, harmonies and rhythms as musical analogs of the two strong primary colors I saw and felt that morning. This is why all of the musical material is constructed from such a limited source: the mode B C# D# E F# G# A, which I hear as a very bright, almost blinding musical color. This is also why, in this short piece, I focus mostly on the higher registers of both the flute and the piano—already among the instruments with the brightest natural timbres. And the tempo of the piece is exactly the speed of that fast walk!

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March, 2007