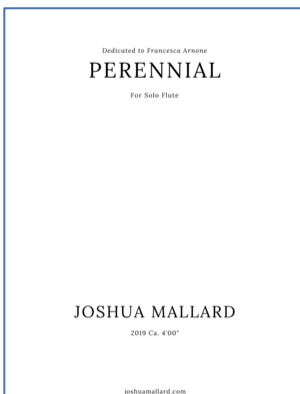




Music Review - *Perennial* for solo flute, by [Joshua Mallard](#) (2019, 4 minutes)

Reviewed by GPFS Member BJ Nicoletti

(Note – A version of this review can also be found in the recent Fall, 2022 [NFA Quarterly](#). Great journal. If you don't already subscribe to this journal or are not yet a [member of NFA](#) please consider it. Totally worth it.)



Perennial, set as an Adagio, is a beautiful, somewhat plaintive and meditative composition. The piece, cyclical in character and form, feels and plays very organically, leaving lots of room for individual

expression, as if one is coming home to an earlier experience and a new experience all at once. It was inspired by pieces he was especially attracted to as a young player. "I was a big fan of pieces like *Syrinx* and the more difficult *Density 21.5*. These pieces are introspective and very melodic, yet they have moments of restlessness and high energy. I wanted to draw from what made these pieces work and add my own unique contribution to the solo flute repertoire." The piece is about "how life experiences never fade... with the idea of things that are everlasting and continually recurring. In a natural way, patterns repeat and unfold in slightly different ways. Like life and history happening in cycles."

This piece is suitable for advanced intermediate players through professionals. At the time, Joshua had the opportunity to compose a piece for a professional flutist so he could have created something much more technically challenging, but he wanted this work to be technically

approachable with room for great depth of expression. Indeed, *Perennial* is very approachable for the flutist and the listener.

The piece uses a small amount of quarter tone and flutter tongue effects. Yet, the extended techniques are to be played as “adding to the lyrical melodic lines, giving the piece more nuance and expressive depth.” He encourages the performer to think of these “less as effects and more as a true extension of the playing technique.” The piece uses the full range of the flute and has some rapid dynamic shifts.

Perennial is suitable for a concert program. And, because this piece is very introspective, it would sound special in any reverberant space or in an outdoor setting where the sound carries. This composition would pair well with the pieces that, in part, inspired it.

A recording of *Perennial* performed by Powell Flutes Artist Amelia Lukas can be heard here - <https://youtu.be/j2KYbR48Me0>

The piece can be purchased through the composer’s website.

<https://www.joshuamallard.com/>



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