

# Oracle and Canon

**T**wo ancient modes of mind meet at the heart of this piece: improvisation and pre-planning. From a handful of randomly drawn notes, a spontaneous musical Oracle is created — unrepeatable, alive in this moment. From that same seed, a carefully constructed Musical Canon (a type of "round") takes shape, precise and inevitable. Inspiration and architecture. Moon and sun. Intuition and intellect. This is a meditation in sound on how we meet the cards life deals us — and how we choose to respond.

## Musical Oracle

Much of Life comes down to this:  
we're dealt cards we didn't choose —  
opportunities, setbacks, surprises...  
all the things Life throws at us.

Sometimes we like the hand we're dealt;  
other times — not so much.

But our freedom — our human agency —  
lies in how we play those cards,  
how we respond.

It occurred to me:  
what if I made music that same way?  
What if I let myself be dealt some notes I didn't choose,  
and then shaped them — spontaneously —  
into a piece of music?

So I made a card deck.  
Not a Tarot deck, not a poker deck...  
a music deck.  
Twelve cards  
for the twelve notes  
of the chromatic scale.

And since card decks usually come with four suits,  
I figured, sure — let's do that, too.  
Because... why not?

And let's name them using the ancient elements:  
earth, air, fire, and water.  
Because... why not?

And let's represent each suit with an animal.  
Because... why not?