



Galilean Moons (1996)

Grade 5.5 • 18:00

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PROGRAM NOTES

Composer Roger Cichy had not devoted his thoughts or energies to astronomy prior to composing *Galilean Moons* in 1996. "I had already begun a sketch of the first movement of a multi-movement work," Cichy writes, "when I awoke one day with the name 'Europa' bouncing around my head. I quickly researched the topic and uncovered the four Galilean Moons of Jupiter. "It's a bizarre coincidence that my initial sketch of the work's first movement, in progress before uncovering the subject, fit remarkably well the moon *Ganymede*."

Each of the four Galilean Moons is unique. Cichy's work reflects these disparate qualities. **Ganymede** is an earth-like body harboring a system of continents, and much of the movement features the Neopolitan scale, which incorporates semitones on either side of tonic. **Callisto** is perhaps the most geographically inert body in the entire solar system and is depicted by a haunting melody, introduced by the alto flute, accompanied by crystal-like tones that suggest a cold, stark, lifeless landscape. **Io**, with its violent volcanism, is portrayed through the use of semitones and tri-tone figures in *furioso* bursts of musical energy. The tempo/style marking, *Furioso*, is continuous throughout the movement. **Europa** is among the most mysterious of all known celestial bodies, its warm sea sandwiched between a molten core and frozen surface crust. Cichy's makes wide use of dichotomous minor/major tonalities throughout the final movement.

INSTRUMENTATION

Winds: Piccolo, Flute 1 & 2, Alto Flute, Oboe 1 & 2, English Horn, Bassoon 1 & 2, Contrabassoon, Eb Clarinet, Bb Clarinet 1 - 3, Bb Bass Clarinet, Eb Alto Saxophones 1 & 2, Bb Tenor Saxophone, Eb Baritone Saxophone

Brass: Bb Trumpet 1 - 4, F Horn 1 - 4, Trombone 1 - 2, Bass Trombone, Euphonium, Tuba

Percussion: Percussion 1 (timpani, vibraslap, triangles [3]), Percussion 2 (snare drum, bass drum, finger cymbals), Percussion 3 (bar chimes, bass drum II, temple blocks, suspended cymbal), Percussion 4 (field drum, vibraphone, slapstick, suspended cymbal, crash cymbals, wind chimes), Percussion 5 (concert toms, marimba, suspended cymbal), Percussion 6 (orchestra bells, xylophone, wood block), Percussion 7 (bongos, chimes, suspended cymbal), Percussion 8 (tam tam, brake drum, triangle, suspended cymbal, crotales)

Strings: Harp, String Bass