

# **The Dying Tree**

**For 10 String Guitar (Yepes tuning)**

**By Julian Bertino**

## Legend

Harmonics are generally notated at pitch. In case of discrepancy, follow the string number and fret number indication instead.

Pitch bends can be performed either vertically (along the fret), or horizontally (away from the fret.) The Pitch bends are intended to be performed with a sense of improvisation, and generally do not need to be a particular distance or length.

The material is intended to be improvisatory and free, so the Rhythms and Dynamics in the score are intended to be interpreted with a large amount of artistic license. Improvisation is encouraged.

Julian Bertino was born in a small town in Ontario. He has studied guitar with Philip Candelaria, Denis Donegani, Dr. Matthew Gould (of Duo46), Louis Trepanier, and composition with Dr. John Gordon Armstrong. He has performed in several masterclasses, compositions, and festivals, including performances for Johannes Möller, Patrick Roux, Matteo Mela (of SoloDuo) and others.

His music is diversely inspired, having performed in Rock, Metal, Jazz, Classical Guitar/Choral ensembles, and as an electronic music producer and DJ. He is currently dedicated to the realization of Zen teachings in music.

*The Dying Tree* was inspired by a collection of events. It is based on an old growth maple tree which I spent some of my childhood playing around with my family. It is also written in memory of my cousin Ben, who passed away at a young age.

The opening movement describes the many flowers, mosses, and various other forms of life which inhabited the tree and its surroundings.

The middle movement represents that tree recognizing that it is dying, initially reacting with feelings of panic and fear. When it accepts its inevitable fate, the material begins to feel much lighter, as the acceptance occurs.

The third movement describes the various small critters that inhabit the tree during its lifetime, which included many racoons, squirrels, mice, insects, birds, and others. The piece ends as the animals have moved on and then the flowers return to the scene, referencing the opening material and completion of the narrative.

For 10 String Guitar (Yepes Tuning)

# The Dying Tree

Julian Bertino

**i. Flora** ♩ = 60  
let ring

*mp* 7 6 3 2 1

slow bend and release X

*Freely* *rall.*

RH

LH  
*a tempo*

*mp* 7 6 3 2 1

Detailed description: This is a musical score for ten-string guitar in Yepes tuning. It consists of ten staves of music. The first staff begins with a tempo of 60 bpm and a dynamic of *mp*. It features a melodic line with various fingerings (7, 6, 3, 2, 1) and techniques like 'let ring' and 'slow bend and release'. The second staff is marked 'Freely' and 'rall.', showing a more expressive melodic line with a '5' fingered note. The third and fourth staves show complex chordal textures with high fretting (up to 12th fret) and intricate fingerings (e.g., 12, 7, 4, 8, 9, 2). The fifth and sixth staves continue with rhythmic patterns and chordal textures, marked 'RH'. The seventh and eighth staves show further development of the chordal textures with fingerings like 10, 6, 3, 8, 6, 3. The ninth and tenth staves conclude the piece with a melodic line marked 'LH a tempo' and a dynamic of *mp*, using fingerings 7, 6, 3, 2, 1.

4 **ii. Acceptance** ♩ = 67

Double with open strings when possible  
let ring

Slowly bend along the string away from the fret,  
then slowly release in the opposite direction

Tambora on Strings near bridge

Repeat x2

Let open B ring (heartbeat rhythm)

Repeat x2

*dolce*  
let ring

30 VI 3 3 3 2 3 II *rit.* pont.

33 VI 3 4 1 II 1 1 0 0

35 *rall.*

*Rasguado with c,a,m,i*

37 *f*

*Letting Go* ♩ = 80

41 *rit.* *subito p*

44 *rit.*

47 *rall.* *Repeat x2* *dim.*

