

## Performance Notes

Alchemy is both the science of turning common material into precious metals (not necessarily gold) and the process itself. For centuries there was a deep and continuous belief in this process, dissipated only by the developing realism inherent in the technological advances of the Industrial Revolution. Whilst many other ancient myths have been proven as such, the lingering fantasy of alchemy remains, fuelled by advances in science and the everyday existence of recyclable materials.

“Alchemy” is a musical attempt to turn one thing into another. Harmonically, the piece opens in the (written) E phrygian mode; produced by playing from E to E' without any accidentals. From there the work moves gradually into a development of the opening material involving G# minor, a rare (and therefore precious?) key, then further afield to chromatic passages totally unrelated to the opening. Eventually the listener is left with a faint, distant rendition of the first material, again in E phrygian, perhaps signifying that alchemy is, after all, impossible. . .

Grace notes are to be played as fast as possible. Breath marks are deliberate, and should be taken as quickly as possible.  
Duration: approximately four minutes.