

RODRIGO AREDES

Chiasmus

for solo flute



Chiasmus
(January 2026)
Rodrigo Aredes (b. 2004)

Performance notes:

 : tongue pizzicato

 : lip pizzicato

 : key click. The fingering for the key click will be provided in the score if necessary

 : flutter tongue (it can be produced by the tongue or the throat)

 : normal fermata: extend the written duration by a factor between 1.5 and 2

 : short fermata: any value between 1 and 1.5

 : long fermata: any value between 2 and 3

IPA: pronounce the following phonemes

[ʃ] : the *sh* sound in the word *shame*

[kɪ] : the *chi* sound in the word *chiasmus*

[ks] : the *x* sound in the word *six*

[s] : the *s* sound in the word *sound*

[k] : the *c* sound in the word *cat*

[pʃ] : the *p* sound in the word *people* followed by the *sh* sound

[æz] : the *as* sound in the word *chiasmus*

[mɛ] : the *mu* sound in the word *chiasmus*

[z] : *z* sound in the word *lizard*

 : follow the written phonemes in playing position

Program

 : off head. Rest the flute on your shoulder and aim the air stream into the mouthhole, producing an airy sound. It lasts for the entire measure

n : play ordinarily, cancelling harmonics or alternate fingerings

✓ : make a rest strong enough to allow for a breath

[90%] : cover the given percentage of the embouchure hole. It lasts for the entire measure

Vibrato marking

NV : no vibrato

V : ordinary vibrato speed

P : poco vibrato. slow vibrato speed

M : molto vibrato. fast vibrato speed

A : ordinary vibrato amplitude

PA : a small vibrato amplitude

MA : a high vibrato amplitude

 : tongue ram

 : air sound produced by a wide embouchure

 : when a gradual transition from sound to air (or vice versa) is required, it will be notated in this way. The black, filled circle represents ordinary sound, while the white, hollow circle represents breath sound.

Chiasmus is a rhetorical device that consists of reversing grammatical structures in successive phrases or clauses. The word means “crossing” and is often associated with the shape of the letter X. It appears in this quotation from Shakespeare’s *Othello*: “Who dotes, yet doubts; suspects, yet soundly loves!” In this sentence, dotes corresponds to loves, and doubts corresponds to suspects. In contrast with antimetabole (as in Macbeth’s “Fair is foul, and foul is fair”), chiasmus does not necessarily involve the literal repetition of words; instead, the paired elements may differ lexically while maintaining a close semantic or structural relationship.

In this piece, references to chiasmus occur on both micro and macro levels: the affected parameters are register, timbre, dynamics, and techniques. I also explored the idea of hidden polyphony within a single line, not only between two different lines that are separated in some way, but also as a polyphony between the instrument and the player.

Approximate length: 3 minutes and 50 seconds

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Moderately slow (♩ = c. 76)

[illegible]