A New Home:

A Composition for Chamber Orchestra

by

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A Thesis Presented in Partial Fulfillment
of the Requirements for the Degree
Master of Music in Composition

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ABSTRACT

*A New Home* is a multi-movement musical composition written for a chamber orchestra of flute, oboe, clarinet in B-flat, bassoon, horn in F, trumpet in C, trombone, bass trombone, percussion (1), pianoforte, and strings. The duration of the entire piece is approximately fourteen minutes (movement 1: four minutes; mvt. 2: four minutes and thirty seconds; mvt. 3: five minutes and thirty seconds). As an exercise in compositional experimentation, some of the musical techniques explored throughout the piece are harmonic planing or parallelism, ostinati, modality, chromatic dissonance, thematic transformation, mixed meter, and syncopation, as well as issues of orchestral blend, balance, and color.

The first movement, ironically titled “Don’t Panic,” highlights my initial anxieties on experimentation by creating hectic textures. The movement is structured around two main alternating sections of chromatic, chordal dissonance with more modal, melodic syncopation in addition to a developmental section, but a sense of rhythmic groove is prominent throughout. The second movement, “Still Here,” is a darker, more sensitive music as it explores various settings of its main thematic material interspersed with march-like episodes and a related secondary theme. The themes are organized around a diatonic scale that omits one pitch to comprise a six-note scale. The third movement, “Change of State,” recalls the modality and rhythmic liveliness of the first movement, and it bears a thematic relationship to the second movement. Much of the material also revolves around scales and mediant relationships to comprise an opening theme, a groove section, and an ethereal, glassy texture which ends the movement. Essentially, the piece closes with a calmer music in contrast to the brute force that opened the piece.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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I would also like to thank my family for their love and emphatic support over the years as I pursued and continue to pursue my passion in music. It has made what I do all the more worthwhile. Lastly, to my friends who have helped make Tempe a home away from home: thank you for the experiences and memories that have made the past two years fulfilling and enriching on a personal and musical level.
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INSTRUMENTATION

Flute
Oboe
Clarinet in B-flat
Bassoon

Horn in F
Trumpet in C
Trombone
Bass Trombone

Percussion (1):
Snare Drum
Concert Bass Drum
Tom Toms (high and low)
China Crash Cymbal
Medium Crash Cymbal
Triangle
Crotale (upper octave)
Glockenspiel
Vibraphone
Xylophone

Percussion Layout:

Piano

Violin I
Violin II
Viola
Violoncello
Contrabass

DURATIONS

I. Don’t Panic: 4’00”
II. Still Here: 4’30”
III. Change of State: 5’30”
all grace occur before the beat
B. Tbn.
F Hn.
Vln. I
Perc.
bTbn.
Pno.
Tpt.
Bsn.
Vla.
Db.
Vc.
Cl.
Fl.
*fingered note, then fast glissando down the length of the string towards the end of the beat
snarky, quirky
Bass drum, toms, snare, china crash, crash, ride
II. STILL HERE

spacious, elegiac, $\doteq 80$

Flute

Oboe

Clarinet in B♭

Bassoon

Horn in F

Trumpet in C

Trombone

Bass Trombone

Percussion

\textit{snare drum, bass drum}

Violin I

Violin II

Viola

Violoncello

Double Bass

\textit{p non cresc.}
III. CHANGE OF STATE

with motion, $J = 100$

Flute

Oboe

Clarinet in B♭

Bassoon

Horn in F

Trumpet in C

Trombone

Bass Trombone

Percussion

Piano

Violin I

Violin II

Viola

Violoncello

Double Bass

with motion, $J = 100$
rit. suspended, ethereal, \( \frac{\text{pp}}{\text{mp}} \) = 60

\begin{align*}
\text{Fl.} & \quad \text{Oboe} \\
\text{Bb Clar.} & \quad \text{Bassoon} \\
\text{F Horn} & \quad \text{Trumpet} \\
\text{Tuba} & \quad \text{Contrabass} \\
\text{Perc.} & \quad \text{Piano} \\
\text{Vln. I} & \quad \text{Vln. II} \\
\text{Vla.} & \quad \text{Vc.} \\
\text{Db.} &
\end{align*}

\begin{align*}
\text{crotale} & \quad \text{bowed} \\
\text{vibraphone} & \quad \text{mallet} \\
\text{rit.} & \quad \text{sempre}
\end{align*}
Fl.
Ob.
Bb Cl.
Bsn.
F Hn.
Tpt.
Tbn.
B. Tbn.
Perc.
Pno.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Db.

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