Piano Concerto

by

Carl Schimmel

Department of Music
Duke University

Date:_______________________

Approved:

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Stephen Jaffe, Co-Supervisor

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Scott Lindroth, Co-Supervisor

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Bryan Gilliam

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Wagner Kamakura

Dissertation submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in the Department of Music in the Graduate School of Duke University

2008
ABSTRACT

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Abstract

The dissertation consists of a Piano Concerto, written for first performance in Fall 2008 by Blair McMillen, piano, and the Raleigh Civic Symphony conducted by Randolph Foy. The three movement work is scored for piccolo, 2 flutes (1 doubling piccolo), 2 oboes, English horn, 2 clarinets in B-flat, bass clarinet in B-flat, 2 bassoons, 4 horns in F, 3 trumpets in C, 2 tenor trombones, bass trombone, tuba, timpani, 3 percussionists, strings, and piano solo. The work is approximately twenty minutes in duration.

The first movement, “Fantod,” employs a neo-Romantic idiom, featuring the soloist as both aggressive virtuoso and as a subtle residual resonance which emerges from the orchestral texture. The second movement, “Lament,” serves as a simple, pensive, and sorrowful aftermath to the frenzied first movement. In the third movement, “Rondoburlesque,” the mood of the work becomes considerably more lighthearted, and moments of the first two movements are caricatured.

The Concerto’s harmonic and melodic organization derives from a set theoretical design. The first movement uses the harmonic minor scale and its inversion, the second movement uses the melodic minor scale, and the last movement uses the natural minor scale (the major scale). Important and unique subsets of these scales are used to provide both contrast and interrelatedness between movements. In particular, the main melodic theme of the first movement returns at the end of the last movement.
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Acknowledgments

I wish to thank the members of my dissertation committee for their advice during the writing of this concerto and throughout my studies at Duke University. In addition, I would like to express gratitude to pianist Blair McMillen and to conductor Dr. Randolph Foy of the Raleigh Civic Symphony for their participation in the premiere of the concerto, which is currently scheduled for November 2008. The Duke University Music Department has also been instrumental in its financial assistance of my musical endeavors. Finally, I would like to thank my wife for her love and support.
PIANO CONCERTO

CARL SCHIMMEL
PIANO CONCERTO
CARL SCHIMMEL

SCORED FOR:

Piccolo
Flute 1, Flute 2 db. Piccolo
Oboe 1, 2
English Horn
Clarinet in B-flat 1, 2
Bass Clarinet in B-flat
Bassoon 1, 2
Horn in F 1, 2, 3, 4
Trumpet in C 1, 2, 3
Tenor Trombone 1, 2
Bass Trombone
Tuba
Timpani
Percussion (3 players)
Piano Solo
Strings

PERCUSSION LIST:

Percussion 1: Vibraphone, Crotales, Crash Cymbals, Glockenspiel, Tam-Tam, Xylophone, Pop Gun, Duck Call
Percussion 2: Suspended Cymbal, Small Triangle, Brake Drum, Wood Blocks (2), Sleigh Bells, Snare Drum,
Glockenspiel, Small Metal Wind Chimes, Crotales, Bass Drum, Whip, Ratchet
Percussion 3: Bass Drum, Tam-Tam, Suspended Cymbal, Snare Drum, Brake Drum

(Players may share instruments)

PERFORMANCE NOTES

• Horn sounds a fifth lower than written, regardless of clef.
• During the large fermatas over the cadence toward the end of the second movement, only those
instruments whose notes are tied over the bar should remain sounding.
III. RONDOBURLESQUE

As Fast As Possible (≈ ca. 176)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Sheet</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>Piano</td>
<td>C Tpt. 1, 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Piano</td>
<td>Cl. 1, 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Piano</td>
<td>Pf. solo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Piano</td>
<td>D.B.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Piano</td>
<td>Vc.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Piano Concerto**

- **Solo straight mute**
- **BASS DRUM**
- **solo**

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46
accented notes should ring (above the range of the damper)
Piano Concerto
Biography

Carl Schimmel was born in 1975 in Pensacola, Florida. He received his B.A. in Mathematics and Music from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, on a full merit scholarship, and his M.M. in Music Composition from the Yale School of Music, where he studied under Ezra Laderman, Martin Bresnick, Evan Ziporyn, and Ned Rorem on a C.P. Richardson Merit Scholarship. As a doctoral student at Duke University, he studied under Anthony Kelley, Sydney Hodkinson, Scott Lindroth, and Stephen Jaffe. He has been awarded residencies at the MacDowell Colony, Yaddo, and the Atlantic Center for the Arts, and has twice attended the Aspen School of Music, which awarded him a Fellowship in 2003.

Winner of the 1999 Bearns Prize, he has received honors and awards from the Yale School of Music, Duke University, the Seoul International Composition Competition, the Left Coast Chamber Ensemble Composition Competition, the National Federation of Music Clubs, the New York Youth Symphony First Music Awards, NACWPI, SCI, ASCAP, and others. His works have been performed throughout the United States, from Alaska to Rhode Island, as well as in Canada, Japan, Korea, and the Netherlands. He has taught at the Yale School of Music, Duke University, Northern Illinois University, and Grinnell College in Grinnell, Iowa, where he currently resides. More information and excerpts of his music are available at http://www.carlschimmel.com.