

NOTES ON THE PROGRAM

“Sturm und drang” is German for “storm and stress”. It is the name for the late 18th century literary movement that included the early works of Goethe and Schiller. In music, it is most associated with Haydn, but also Mozart and Gluck.

Sturm und drang begins with a very long, slow introduction that combines moody, timbre-based effects with gigantic builds. It is a weird landscape of sound without pulse or direction.

This gives way to a frantic toccata that focusses obsessively on a single, mechanistic line. Although this line throughout is in the keyboard instruments, I treat it like an organist with a giant percussion organ. In particular, I use organ registration techniques to create unexpected color effects by combining instruments in ways that alter the composite spectrum by reinforcing certain overtones. In addition, I use a technique I derived from organ fingering to create the illusion of legato between multiple instruments.

-notes by the composer

*Commissioned by the Moores School
Percussion Ensemble
at University of Houston,
Dr. Blake M. Wilkins, director*

“Several times I wrote “Wow!” next to a work being played...”
-Peter Jacobi, Herald Times

In 2000
composer
Justin Merritt
(bn. 1975)

justinmerritt

was the youngest-ever winner of the ASCAP Foundation/Rudolph Nissim Award for *Janus Mask*. He is also the winner of a host of other awards including the 2008-09 Copland Award, the 2008 Minnesota Orchestra Composer Institute Prize for *River of Blood*, and the 2006 Polyphonos Prize

He received his Bachelors from Trinity University and his Masters and Doctorate from Indiana University. He studied composition with Samuel Adler, Sven-David Sandström, Claude

Baker, Timothy Kramer, Don Freund, and electronic and computer music with Jeffrey Hass. He is currently Assistant Professor of Composition at St. Olaf College. He resides in Northfield, Minnesota with his wife Yuedong and their children Cullen Fang Ouxiang and Molly Fang Qinghe.

“...demands an audience's attention...
Merritt's piece was the standout.”
-Rob Hubbard,
Pioneer Press

instrumentation

percussion 1

*timpani (set of 5), triangle, sleigh bells, finger cymbals,
suspended cymbal, tambourine*

percussion 2

marimba 1

percussion 3

marimba 2

percussion 4

marimba 3, very large tam tam

percussion 5

marimba 4, crotales 1 (upper octave)

percussion 6

vibraphone 1

percussion 7

vibraphone 2, tubular bells 1

percussion 8

vibraphone 3

percussion 9

*xylophone, gongs (various mixed types), flexatone 1, small tam
tam, shaker, large suspended cymbal*

percussion 10

*medium suspended cymbal, large tam tam, crash cymbals,
brake drum, wood block, temple blocks, 4 cow bells,
crotales 2 (lower octave)*

percussion 11

*small suspended cymbal, medium tam tam, bass drum,
flexatone 2, whip, ratchet, tubular bells 2, triangle*

percussion 12

*slide whistle, suspended cymbal, snare drum, tenor drum,
timbales, tom toms*

Dur: c. 9'

Commissioned by the Moores School Percussion Ensemble at University of Houston, Dr. Blake M. Wilkins, director

sturm und drang

for percussion orchestra

Justin Merritt

Dark, with menace ♩ = 54

Rit. poco a poco

Percussion 1 timpani

Percussion 2 marimba

Percussion 3 marimba

Percussion 4 tam tam

Percussion 5 crotales

Percussion 6 vibraphone

Percussion 7 tubular bells

Percussion 8 vibraphone

Percussion 9 suspended cymbal tam-tam

Percussion 10 suspended cymbal tam tam

Percussion 11 suspended cymbal bass drum

Percussion 12 snare, tenor drum timbales, tom toms

p *mp* *mf* *f* *ff*

p *mp* *mf* *f* *ff*

p *mp* *mf* *f* *ff*

p *pp* *p* *mp* *mf* *f* *ff*

mf *f*

p *mp* *mf* *f*

p *pp* *p* *mp* *mf* *f* *ff*

p *f*

(tam tam) (sus. cym.) *p* *p* *pp* *p* *mp* *mf* *f* *ff*

(tam tam) (sus. cym.) *p* *p* *pp* *p* *mp* *mf* *f* *ff*

p *p* *p* *pp* *p* *mp* *mf* *f* *ff*

② ③ ④ ⑤ ⑥ ⑦ ⑧ ⑨ ⑩ ⑪ ⑫ ⑬ ⑭

A a tempo

sleigh bells

timpani

place suspended cymbal upside down on timpano, slowly gliss

Perc. 1 timpani *sf* *pp* *pp*

Perc. 2 marimba

Perc. 3 marimba

Perc. 4 tam tam *sf* *mp* *mp*

Perc. 5 marimba *pp* *p*

Perc. 6 vibraphone *mp* *mp* *mp* *mf*

Perc. 7 vibraphone *mp* *mp* *mp* *mf*

Perc. 8 vibraphone *mp* *mp*

Perc. 9 sus. cym. tam tam *sf* *p* *mp* *mp* *mp*

Perc. 9 gongs *mp*

Perc. 10 sus. cym. tam tam *sf* *p* *mp* *mp* *mp* *p*

Perc. 11 sus. cym. bass drum *sf* *p* *mp* *mp* *mp*

Percussion 12 slide whistle *p* *p* *p*

every player in the ensemble whistles very low note ad lib. slow quarter tone oscillations, non sync.

Whist. *p*

*this is a sample only
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orchestral

Janus Mask	winds in 2s
River of Blood	winds in 2s
Dervish.....	winds in 2s
Lachryme	string orchestra

choral/vocal

Corde natus	SATB
Lamentations	SATB
Nativity	SATB
Adoro Te Devote	SATB
Fire Sermon	SSATB & orchestra
Dissonance	song cycle
Dhammapada.....	song cycle
London Thoroughfare, 2AM	tenor, horn, violin, & piano
May Evening in Central Park.....	baritone & piano

solo

5 Preludes	piano
Chaconne: Mercy Endures	piano
Windchimes.....	piano
Standard Deviation	violin
Veloce.....	violin & piano
Coupling.....	organ
Drum Break.....	percussion

chamber

Ravening	string quartet
Invocation	8 solo brass
The Day Florestan Murdered Magister Raro	clarinet, violin, cello, & piano
Trio	violin, cello, & piano