

justinmerritt

janus mask *for orchestra*

NOTES ON THE PROGRAM

Janus, the Roman god of gates and doorways, is portrayed in masks as having 2 faces, each pointing in the opposite direction. Liars and traitors are

“... the highlight of the year came Nov. 9 with Justin Merritt's Five Preludes for piano...”
-Peter Schimpf, Bloomington Independent

sometimes described as being Janus-faced because one is never sure which the true face is.

Like the mask, this work is divided into two opposing sections. The first half of the work is an aggressive *Allegro* in which a series of increasingly powerful peaks explode and extinguish themselves

in a furious culmination. The second half of the work, marked *Lento desolato*, is a slow and tortured progression. The work ends with a massive climax, indicating a new beginning beyond the next gate.

In 2001, Justin Merritt, became the youngest-ever winner of the prestigious ASCAP Foundation/Rudolph Nissim award for *Janus Mask*.

-notes by the composer

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

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In 2000 composer Justin Merritt (bn. 1975) 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

flutes 1-2 (flt. 2 dbl. picc.)
oboes 1-2 (ob. 2 dbl. Eng. hrn.)
Bb clarinets 1-2 (clar. 2 dbl. b. cl)
bassoons 1-2

horns 1-4
trumpets 1-2
trombone
bass trombone

timpani (set of 5)

percussion (*2 players*)
*snare drum, 4 tom toms, floor tom, kick drum, bass drum, crotales, glockenspiel,
xylophone, vibraphone, marimba, tubular bells, crash cymbal, suspended cymbal,
2 brake drums, tam-tam, whip, anvil, & tambourine*

Harp

Strings

Janus Mask

for orchestra

Justin Merritt

Adagio furioso ♩=54

Piccolo
Flute 1
Oboe 1
Oboe 2
Clarinet in B \flat 1
Clarinet in B \flat 2
Bassoons 1-2
Horns in F 1-2
Horns in F 3-4
Trumpets in C 1-2
Trombone
Bass Trombone
Timpani
Anvil
Bass Drum
Tom-toms

Adagio furioso ♩=54

Violin I
Violin II
Viola
Cello
Double Bass

8 9

Picc. *cresc. poco a poco*

Fl. 1 *cresc. poco a poco*

Ob. 1

Ob. 2

Cl. in Bb 1

Cl. in Bb 2

Bsn. 1-2 *ff*

Hn. in F 1-2 *ff*

Hn. in F 3-4 *ff*

Tpt. in C 1-2 *ff*

Tbn. B. Tbn. *ff*

Timp.

B. D. *f*

Tom-t. *f*

Vln. I *cresc. poco a poco*

Vln. II *cresc. poco a poco*

Vla. *ff* *sff* *ff*

Vc. *ff* *sff* *ff*

Db. *ff* *sff* *ff*

A Allegro feroce ♩=132

15

3/4

2/4

Picc. *fff*

Fl. 1 *fff*

Ob. 1-2 *a2 3*

Cls in B \flat 1-2 *3*

Bsn. 1-2 *3*

Hn. in F 1-2 *3*

Hn. in F 3-4 *3*

Tpt. in C 1-2 *3*

Tbn. B. Tbn. *3*

Crash Cym. *ff choke*

B. D. *3*

S. D. *R.S. ff*

Tom-t. *3*

A Allegro feroce ♩=132

3/4

2/4

Vln. I *fff*

Vln. II *fff*

Vla. *marcato, ferve f*

Vc. *marcato, ferve f*

Db. *ord. fr. sul pont. fp f*

*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
	Monster.....winds in 3s
choral	Corde natus.....SATB
	Lamentations.....SATB
	Hay Días.....SMsATBrB
	Nativity.....SATB
	Adoro Te Devote.....SATB
	Fire Sermon.....SSATB & orchestra
solo	Standard Deviation.....violin
	Bar for Hans Sachs.....flute
	Veloce.....violin & piano
	Coupling.....organ
	Drum Break.....percussion
chamber	A Gauze of Misted Silver.....string quartet & harp
	Ravening.....string quartet
	Invocation.....8 solo brass
	The Day Florestan Murdered Magister Raro.....clarinet, violin, cello, & piano
	Trio.....violin, cello, & piano
piano	5 Preludes.....piano
	Chaconne: Mercy Endures.....piano
	Rococo Suite.....piano
	Sierpinski Gasket.....piano
	Windchimes.....piano
	Hive.....4 pianos, 16 hands
vocal	Dissonance.....song cycle
	Steps Into Stillness.....song cycle
	Dhammapada.....song cycle
	London Thoroughfare, 2AM.....tenor, horn, violin, & piano
	May Evening in Central Park.....baritone & piano