DAVID
AVSHALOMOV
RAIN DANCE
for Concert Band

SCORE

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INTRUMENTATION

Flutes 1/picc., 2/picc., 3, 4
Oboes 1, 2
Bb Clarinets 1, 2, 3
Eb Alto Clarinet (opt., cued)
Bb Bass Clarinet
BBb Contra-Bass Clarinet (opt.)
Bassoons 1, 2
Contrabassoon (opt.)
Eb Alto Saxophones 1, 2
Bb Tenor Saxophone
Eb Baritone Saxophone
F Horns 1, 2, 3, 4
Bb Trumpets 1, 2, 3
Trombones 1, 2, 3 (bass)
Euphonium (C, bass clef; alt. Bb treble Baritone part also provided)
Tuba
String Bass (with low C extension) (opt.)

Percussion (5 to 6 players)
  Xylophone (sounds 8va)
  Glockenspiel (sounds 15ma)
  Vibraphone
  Marimba (optional) (4 octave; extra opt. notes for 5th oct.)

  Tambourine
  Floor Tom
  Huge Rain Stick
  Bull Roarer (aboriginal or Miwok)
  Maracas (2 pair)
  Sleigh Bells
PERFORMANCE NOTES

• Score is transposing
• There are 4 obbligato flute parts. 1. and 2. double on piccolo.
• If your percussionists cannot find or make a simple Bull Roarer its solo introduction may be omitted.
  o It is basically a narrow 1-foot-long, thin softwood slat (about 4” wide) with sanded tapered edges, a small hole drilled near one end, and a 2-foot cord, with a short T-stick tied at the end as a handle, looped through the hole. You hold the handle and whirl the slat in the air in big circles until it WHUMMMS and WHUMMS.
• The Rain Stick is cued with a vocal effect (off the instrument) in most parts. One or the other, not both.
• The opening and closing solos will make a fine spooky effect on BBb ContraBass Clarinet. If the instrument is not available, there are cues for it in Contrabassoon, String Bass, Bass Clarinet, and muted solo Tuba (in descending order of preference).
• The 32-foot line will have best effect if you can field at least two of: ContraBass Clarinet, Contrabassoon, String Bass.
• OPTIONAL STOMPING: From rehearsal letter C to D, almost all players (as marked) may stomp lightly with one foot, alternating feet, where marked with downward arrows above the staff.
  o Any players who find the stomping disturbs their embouchure may choose not to do it.
  o Do not do it if the stage is a hard concrete slab or other non-resonant surface.
    ▪ If you are on a deeply hollow wood stage, take it easy.
  o Stomping players may also wear ankle jingles (as many as available) to enhance this group dance rhythm.
    ▪ Put them on quietly onstage before playing the piece (do not walk onstage jingling please), take them off quietly after the applause starts.
  o To do the steps, raise the foot slowly, and stomp down quickly on the marked beat, flat-footed.
  o Ladies will want to wear flats, not heels for this.

PROGRAM NOTE
(by the composer)

This is a bitter slow-dance piece, dry and dissonant almost throughout, with a few moments of moist semi-sweetness near the end.

SCENARIO: It is dry. No rain. Crops will wither. The people gather; dancers, chanters, drummers. They beat the air with a bull roarer. The big low whistle moans for a breeze, the small flutes answer with wet drop noises. Nothing. All sigh. They call the breeze up to pull rain down, again and again. No rain. They make a falling-drops tune in harmonized groups. No rain. They build up an intense slow heavy dance rhythm, drumming, stamping, and the tiny whistles scream for the rain, then all join in. Stop. Wait. Now a little rain comes, gently; it falls and rolls in rivulets and soaks into the parched Earth. The sky wipes clear and all thank the breeze and sun, the big whistle last.

(This score is a transcription/expansion of the original version for flute orchestra (all sizes).)

Duration: 6 minutes
DAVID AVSHALOMOV

Music for Band

Siege [7] powerful slow tragic tone poem, huge middle climax (also for orchestra)

Spring Rondo [8] exuberant tonal dancy fun in changing polymeters, hot ending


Cornucopia of Rounds [12], a wild variation-mashup of 7 rounds, huge cosmic ending


Hill Dance [5] in 5/8, fun Bulgarian/Klezmer style, hot ending, features clarinet choir with Eb, Bb, BCl. soli

The Last Stand [7’45] slow tragic tone poem, dramatic, rich sonorities
Commissioned 2012 by the Western Plains Wind Consortium (15 bands)

American Prize 2014, Band Composition (3rd place)

Vignettes, suite of 10 short widely-varied miniatures for community bands [14 total]
First Place, American Prize 2015, Band Composition
Commissioned 2012 by a consortium of 26 bands in the US and Europe
Winner, 2013 Wind Ensemble Composition Contests, Sul Ross State University (Texas) and Hillcrest Wind Ensemble (San Diego)

Rain Dance [6] evocative tone painting, dissonant, powerful, haunting

StarGazers, tonal color/character miniatures evoking stars and space travel
Starry Night [1:30] slow long arch with cosmic climax
Galaxy [2:45], slow start, adventure march with wild warp jump ending

Glockenspiel March [2:30] old-fashioned novelty featuring the orchestra bells section

TRANSCRIPTIONS

Bach, Sinfonia to Cantata No. 29 [3’30] exuberant Baroque encore, transcribed for:
- Symphonic Wind Ensemble; Clarinets 1, 2. and Flutes/Piccs on the solo part (Eb)
- Solo Marimba (or Xylophone, or duet) with Wind Ensemble (D)

WITH CHORUS

Principles, secular cantata (Thos. Jefferson) [32] on religious freedom and liberty
- Original version TTBB (divisi), solo baritone, concert band
- Revised version SSAATTBB, solo baritone, concert band

Sergeant Pepper Medley Lennon/McCartney [16’]
TTBB chorus with tenor and baritone soli, (or solo quintet), concert band (or combo)

Perusal scores, reference recordings, .pdf performance materials and complete list of the composer’s works in all genres available through

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