ABSTRACT

Clear Sound is the opening movement of a larger three movement concerto for solo clarinet and orchestra being written for clarinetist and conductor Luis Viquez Cordoba. I set out to compose a traditionally structured concerto, utilizing a three movement design, and further modeling each movement in a traditional manner i.e, a Sonata-Allegro first movement, a slow middle movement based around a song-like theme, and a Scherzo final movement in Rondo form.

With the opening movement, Clear Sound, I endeavored to fit my own pan-tonal harmonic language, which does not function under the tonic-dominant rules of common practice, into the Sonata-Allegro form, a formal design predicated on harmonic relationships. The piece roughly follows the Exposition-Development-Recapitulation design of classic Sonata-Allegro form, with the addition of two virtuosic cadenzas – the first acting as a large portion of the development section - a searching exploration of the themes that have been presented. The second cadenza acts as a bridge between the end of the recapitulation and a short codetta that rounds out the form.
The faculty listed below, appointed by the Dean of the Conservatory of Music and Dance have examined a thesis titled “Clear Sound for Clarinet and Orchestra,” presented by Benjamin Joel Stevenson, candidate for the Master of Music Degree, and certify that in their opinion it is worthy of acceptance.

Supervisory Committee

Chen Yi, DMA, Committee Chair
Conservatory of Music and Dance

James Mobberley, DMA
Conservatory of Music and Dance

Zhou Long, DMA
Conservatory of Music and Dance
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INSTRUMENTATION

Flute 1&2
Oboe 1&2
B Flat Clarinet 1&2
Bassoon 1&2
Horn in F 1&2
Trumpet in C 1&2
Trombone
Timpani

Percussion 1 (Vibraphone, Woodblock, Bongos, Medium Gong, Orchestral Chimes)
Percussion 2 (Glockenspiel, Triangle, Xylophone, Snare Drum, Splash Cymbal, Crotales)
Solo B Flat Clarinet
Violin I
Violin II
Viola
Violoncello
Contrabass
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Sempre legato stems up in implied melody
VITA

Ben Stevenson’s musical activity has manifested itself in a multitude of ways. In addition to his work as a composer, he has performed as a guitarist in rock bands, as a DJ and dance promoter, and as a theatrical sound designer. As a composer, he has worked in a variety of media, including theatre, dance, film and the concert stage. His work has been performed across the United States and featured at festivals such as the Charlotte New Music Festival and the Electronic Music Midwest festival. His primary composition instructors have been James Mobberley, Chen Yi, Zhou Long, and Reynold Simpson at the UMKC Conservatory of Music and Dance; and Kenneth Jacobs at the University of Tennessee where Ben graduated Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor’s of Music in Music Theory and Composition.