364 DAYS: SUITE FOR JAZZ ORCHESTRA

A DISSERTATION IN
Music Composition

Presented to the Faculty of the University
of Missouri-Kansas City in partial fulfillment of
the requirements for the degree

DOCTOR OF MUSICAL ARTS

by
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B.A., Eastern Illinois University, 2004

M.M., Western Illinois University, 2008

Kansas City, Missouri
2014
ABSTRACT

364 Days: Suite for Jazz Orchestra was composed for a standard seventeen-piece (5/4/4/4) jazz orchestra. The suite is comprised of five pieces - And I Think of You; Goodnight; What Ifs; 364 Days; The Dreamer and The Realist - and were recorded for the album J.E. Chapman, 364 Days: music for large ensembles. Each movement of the suite is intended to work as a part of the larger work or out of context as an individual performance piece. The sections of the suite are connected through an “affiliated motif”. Each piece is tied together through intervallic commonalities, common melodic contour, and “spirit” but are unique enough in their own individuality to posses their own personality. While the intent is for the suite to be performed as a complete work I took great effort in creating five works that could be performed separately and yet still sound complete; each piece has its own unique formal structure and distinctive rhythmic and style elements that allow them to succeed as part of a set or as an isolated work. These compositions blend modern jazz harmonies and non-traditional formal structures; staying connected to and extending the tradition of jazz composition.
The faculty listed below have examined a dissertation titled “364 Days: Suite for Jazz Orchestra”, presented by Jonathan Eric Chapman, candidate for the Doctorate of Musical Arts degree, and certify that in their opinion it is worthy of acceptance.

Supervisory Committee

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Suite for Jazz Orchestra

Composed by J.E. Chapman

I. ...And I Think of You
II. Goodnight
III. What Ifs
IV. 364 Days
V. The Dreamer and The Realist

All compositions the property of Jonathan Eric Chapman
...and I think of you

by J.E. Chapman
...and I think of you

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...and I think of you
...and I think of you
...and I think of you
...and I think of you
Goodnight

by J.E. Chapman

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Goodnight 5
What Ifs by J.E. Chapman
The Dreamer and The Realist

Composed by J.E. Chapman

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A. Sn. 1

A. Sn. 2

T. Sn. 1

T. Sn. 2

B. Sn.

B-tp. 1

B-tp. 2

B-tp. 3

B-tp. 4

Thv. 1

Thv. 2

Thv. 3

Thv. 4

Ob.

Pno.

Ras.

D. S.
Jonathan Eric Chapman (born 1977) is a native of Webster Groves, Missouri. Chosen to play the trombone in 6th grade because his arms were long enough to reach 7th position, Mr. Chapman later developed a serious interest in music and jazz at age 14. He taught himself instrument transpositions and basic orchestration, attempting his first compositions and arrangements for jazz ensemble while in high school.

Mr. Chapman attended Eastern Illinois University, in Charleston Il., where he continued his interest in composition and arranging. While at E.I.U., multiple jazz ensembles performed originals and arrangements by Mr. Chapman. Mr. Chapman also co-founded a popular music group which performed regionally and had two recordings published on CD. After E.I.U. Mr. Chapman, eventually, attended Western Illinois University, in Macomb Il., and was active as a composer and arranger – again having many pieces featured by multiple ensembles.

In 2008 Mr. Chapman moved to Kansas City to work on a doctorate in composition from the University of Missouri – Kansas City. While in Kansas City, Mr. Chapman remained active as a trombonist and composer/arranger both at the university and off campus in the Kansas City jazz community. At U.M.K.C. Mr. Chapman was a composition mentor to undergraduate level students and was a jazz combo coach/director for three years. He has been a member of The New Jazz Order Big Band since 2008; performed with The 627 Big Band; a three time participant of The Blackhouse Collective ensemble; performed with multiple popular music ensemble in Kansas City; lead his own ensemble - The J.E. Chapman Music Circus. As a trombonist Mr. Chapman has recorded with The New Jazz Order Big Band and Mr. Bobby Watson on The Gates BBQ Suite CD. Mr. Chapman has a release
slated for spring of 2014 of original works performed and recorded by his own ensemble; the title of the CD is 364 Days.

Mr. Chapman holds degrees from Eastern Illinois University (B.A. Trombone Performance – Jazz Studies), Western Illinois University (M.M. in Music – Jazz composition), and is currently completing the doctorate degree in composition from The Conservatory of Music and Dance at University of Missouri – Kansas City and will graduate in May of 2014.