CONCERTO FOR TWO HORNS AND 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
DANIEL ERIC MOREL

B.A., Bucknell University, 2003
B.A., Bucknell University, 2003
M.M., The Hartt School, University of Hartford, 2011
A.D., The Hartt School, University of Hartford, 2013

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CONCERTO FOR TWO HORNs AND ORCHESTRA

Daniel Eric Morel, Candidate for the Doctor of Musical Arts Degree

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ABSTRACT

This concerto for two horns and orchestra is a 25-minute work for two virtuoso horn players and full-size orchestra. The work draws on images of the Rocky Mountains and Western United States. Three movements depict a mountain ascent, lonely calls between the mountain tops, and a majestic fanfare celebrating the grandeur of these geologic features.

The first movement features a slowly ascending melody shared between the soloists and orchestra. As the melody rises, it gathers momentum and rhythmic intensity. A persistent ostinato continues to drive the music forward as the melody ascends. Once reaching its climactic height, the clouds above usher in a peaceful serenity.

The second movement features two horns reaching across lonely mountain tops. The soloists call to each other with motives reminiscent of the opening melody. These calls grow into full cadenzas between the now connected horns. The orchestra provides an ever-growing layer of clouds and mist, obscuring the two lonely soloists.
The final movement is an exuberant celebration of these mountainous peaks. It begins with a celebratory fanfare growing out of the lonely calls. The music returns to the grandeur of the opening melody, mixed with driving rhythms and massive sound.
APPROVAL PAGE

The faculty listed below, appointed by the Dean of the Conservatory of Music and Dance have examined a dissertation titled “Concerto for Two Horns and Orchestra” presented by Daniel Morel, candidate for the Doctor of Musical Arts degree, and certify that in their opinion it is worthy of acceptance.

Supervisory Committee

James Mobberley, D.M.A, Committee Chair
Conservatory of Music and Dance

Chen Yi, D.M.A.
Conservatory of Music and Dance

Zhou Long, D.M.A.
Conservatory of Music and Dance

Martin Hackleman
Conservatory of Music and Dance

Joseph Parisi, Ph.D.
Conservatory of Music and Dance
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INSTRUMENTATION

Soloists

2 Horns in F

Ensemble

2 Flutes
2 Oboes
2 Clarinets in Bb
2 Bassoon
4 Horns in F
2 Trumpets in C
   Trombone
   Bass Trombone
Timpani
Percussion: Marimba, Crotales, Suspended Cymbal
Strings
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I would like to thank the many musicians who collaborated on projects throughout my doctoral program – collaborations that led to this concerto. I am grateful for the countless conversations with Garrett Rigsby, Corey Seapy, Maddy Tarantelli, and Luis Viquez that have inspired this piece. I would further like to thank my dissertation committee – Chen Yi, Marty Hackleman, James Mobberley, Joe Parisi, and Zhou Long – for their guidance and feedback in composing this piece. This dissertation marks the end of a journey that began with jazz arrangements in high school and I am beyond grateful for the support of every mentor since, including Chen Yi, Robert Carl, William Duckworth, Barry Hannigan, James Mobberley, Uri Ayn Rovner, Reynold Simpson, Larry Alan Smith, Ken Steen, and Zhou Long. Lastly, this journey would not have been possible without the boundless support of my family.
II. Mountain Calls

Moving forward \( \frac{1}{2} \)

Flute 1
Flute 2
Oboe 1
Oboe 2
Clarinet in Bb
Clarinet in Bb-2
Bassoon 1
Bassoon 2
Horn in F 1, 1
Horn in F 3, 4
Trumpet in Bb 1
Trumpet in Bb 2
Trombone
Tuba Trombone
Timpani
Percussion 1
Percussion 2
Soli Horn in F 1
Soli Horn in F 2
Viola
Violin I
Violin II
Cello
Contrabass

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III. Echoes and Flares
VITA

Daniel Morel is a Kansas City-based composer who energizes his music with spectral lyricism. Garnering commissions and performances across the United States, his music reflects myriad literary and natural interests. His works are permeated with the Western sensibilities of his Colorado upbringing, drawing on influences ranging from prairie thunderstorms to classic American poetry.

Mr. Morel has received awards and honors from the Mizzou New Music Initiative, Byrdcliffe Guild, the City of Hartford, the Hartt School, the Longfellow Chorus, and the Colorado State Music Teacher’s Association, among others. Recent premieres include the Cherry Creek Chorale, Hartford Opera Theater, and Seasons Festival Orchestra.

Mr. Morel holds degrees from Bucknell University (BA) and The Hartt School, University of Hartford (MM, AD). He is currently working on a doctorate at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. Performance details and further information are available at www.danmorel.com.