Eighth Note Publications

Ions

Jeff Smallman

The title for this work comes from its first four movements. The third letter of each of the first three movements plus the first letter of the fourth movement spells "Ions". Ions are small, charged particles and this is the feeling the composer was intending when he wrote this piece. Each movement displays a specific mood or idea unique to that movement. The title of each section should provide a clue as to the mood intended. "Triliad" is based on threes: triplet figures, hemiolas creating a 9/8 feel, augmented and diminished triads. "Evocation" is simply intended to "evoke" a feeling of nostalgia. A "Monolith" is something that stands alone. This movement contains seventeen measures, a prime number (which "stands alone"), and attempts to portray the starkness inherent in the monolith. "Secrecy" shows the trumpet trying to tiptoe, with the feeling of keeping something hidden, not always successfully. "Longing" is a title with several meanings. The first is the obvious emotional aspect. Next is the tempo, which is the slowest found in IONS. This implies stretching, or making longer. Consistent with this is the way the movement begins, with each successive pair of intervals becoming wider, or "longer". And finally, there are no "short" notes used in this movement. "Challenge" is so named because the composer has attempted to evoke the feel of the trumpet call used by ancient armies challenging one another to battle.

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Jeff Smallman began writing music at a very young age. He attended the University of Western Ontario and graduated with a degree in Theory and Composition. Mr. Smallman has written for a wide variety of groups, ranging from solo instruments to full orchestra and covering a range of styles. This variety of styles has led people to compare his music to such composers as Bach, Mozart, Ravel, Mahler, Poulenc, Ibert and Shostakovich.

In 1991 Mr. Smallman was a finalist in the Search for New Music competition hosted by the Canadian Band Association. The work he submitted was his concert band piece Spirit of Adventure which is also available through Eighth Note Publications.

Mr. Smallman has been commissioned to write many works. The numerous pieces he has written for schools, churches and individuals include works for concert band, solo flute, clarinet choir, saxophone quartet and over 20 pieces for various size choirs. His trumpet sextet Fanfare for Prince Henry was written for and accepted by the Prince and Princess of Wales in 1984. Performances of Mr. Smallman's compositions have been given throughout Canada, the United States and China and Hungary. Currently, Mr. Smallman is an organist and choir director at St. Martin-in-the-Fields Anglican Church in Southwestern Ontario where he has held that position for 12 years.

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for Unaccompanied Trumpet

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