

Trickster Coyote - Lightening Elk Concerto for Violin and Orchestra

by Malcolm Forsyth

- I We-nu-ya-neh 4'05"
- II Eagle: "Sees-Far" 5'00"
- III Bear: "Looks-Within" 6'40"
- IV Seven Arrows 2'20"
- Total 18'05"



2 Flutes (2=Piccolo)
2 Oboes
2 Clarinets in Bb
2 Bassoons
4 Horns in F
2 Trumpets in C
3 Trombones

1 Tuba
Timpani
2 Percussion (Mohawk rattle, Mohawk drum,
Glockenspiel, Suspended cymbal)
1 Harp
Piano (optional; substituting or added to harp)
Strings

The work was commissioned by Canadian violinist, Tara-Louise Montour, whose own Mohawk heritage was the central theme to be explored. Several themes are borrowed from traditional social songs, chants and dances of various Aboriginal peoples of North America. The use of rattle and drum is an obvious influence in the work, which melds the Western music tradition, with its symphony orchestra and its thematic development, with these various themes and their instruments.

The four movements are played without break, totalling eighteen minutes, and exemplify different aspects of the various aboriginal nations: We-nu-ya-neh is a social dance-song of many in the Iroquois nation. Two of the four compass directions and their characters appear in movements 2 and 3: Eagle: "Sees far" and Bear: "Looks within". Eagle is a soft evocation of flight, the violin soaring against rushing, air-like figures in strings and harp. Bear is a somber and passionate piece with a big orchestral climax. The finale, Seven Arrows, is forceful and rhythmic; stabbing and angular figures vie with a central section marked Tranquil, where harp and solo violin sing a traditional pentatonic melody. An oft-repeated, chant-like melody is featured in the bass instruments throughout, and also in the final crescendo, with the ritualistic drum and rattle pulsing incessantly.

Animation:

The Animation was created to be a backdrop to live performance, but the piece stands on its own and can be done without the animation. You can view the complete work with animation at this link:

<http://cpmusiclibrary.ca/highlights-audio>

Artist: Maxine Noel

Producer: Theresa Wynnyk

Animator: Brandon Adams

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Winner of the Best Animated Short, Edmonton Film Festival, 2012

Full score (\$60; study score \$45), solo part and piano reduction (\$35. set) may be purchased. Full score, performance materials and animation DVD are available on rental.



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