Winds of courage a mallet concerto for solo mallets and wind ensemble.

Ross Elliott
University of Louisville

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Winds of Courage

a Mallet Concerto

for Solo Mallets and Wind Ensemble

By
Ross Elliott
B.M., Bowling Green State University, 2015

A Thesis
Submitted to the Faculty of the
School of Music of the University of Louisville
in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
for the Degree of

Master of Music in Music Composition

School of Music
University of Louisville

December 2017
Winds of Courage

a Mallet Concerto

for solo Mallets and Wind Ensemble

By
Ross Elliott
B.M., Bowling Green State University, 2015

A Thesis Approved on

December 12, 2017

by the following Thesis Committee:

Steve Rouse
Thesis Director

John Ritz

Frederick Speck
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

First and foremost, I would like to thank Steve Rouse for all of his support, wisdom, advice, and mentoring throughout this process; as well as being my composition professor during my time of the University of Louisville.

Secondly, I would like to thank my parents and family for all of their support in my musical endeavors.
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INSTRUMENTATION

Piccolo
Flute 1, 2
Oboe 1, 2
Clarinet in E♭
Clarinet in Bb 1, 2, 3
Bass Clarinet in B♭
Bassoon 1, 2
Contrabassoon
Alto Saxophone 1, 2
Tenor Saxophone
Baritone Saxophone
Trumpet in Bb 1, 2, 3 (straight mutes required)
Horn in F 1, 2, 3, 4
Trombone 1, 2 (straight mutes required)
Bass Trombone
Euphonium
Tuba

Solo Mallets
   I. Marimba (5-octave)
   II. Vibraphone (bow required)
   III. Xylophone

Timpani (4)

Percussion Instruments Needed (Shared as needed): Marimba, Xylophone, Vibraphone (bow needed), Glockenspiel, Crotales (bow needed), Tubular Bells; Mark Tree, Suspended Cymbals, Crash Cymbals, Triangle, Sleigh Bells; Temple Blocks, Tambourine, Snare Drum, Bass Drum.

Percussion 1
   I. Glockenspiel, Marimba
   II. Vibraphone (bow required)
   III. Mark Tree, Marimba

Percussion 2
   I. Crotales, Xylophone, Suspended Cymbal
   II. Crotales (bow required)
   III. Crotales, Glockenspiel, Crash Cymbals

Percussion 3
   I. Suspended Cymbal, Tubular Bells, Glockenspiel, Mark Tree
   II. Glockenspiel
   III. Triangle, Snare Drum, Mark Tree

Percussion 4
   I. Triangle, Snare Drum,
   II. Tubular Bells, Suspended Cymbal
   III. Sleigh Bells, Temple Blocks, Tambourine, Bass Drum

Percussion 5
   I. Bass Drum, Mark Tree, Triangle
   II. Triangle, Sleigh Bells, Mark Tree
   III. Suspended Cymbal, Tambourine

Harp
Piano
String Bass

Score is Transposed.

Total duration: ca. 18:30
   I. Nerves of Butterflies: ca. 7:45
   II. Tears of Thoughts: ca 6:45
   III. Smiles of Hope: ca. 3:45
PROGRAM NOTES

*Winds of Courage* is a motivically-driven composition based on a repeating chordal pattern. Although being written out, the solo mallets parts sound somewhat improvisatory, which is a key element to the part. In a way, the concerto illustrates what it is like to have a crush on someone; where the first movement is getting up the courage to talk to them; the second movement, crying from failing to say what you need to say or not getting up the courage to talk to them, or getting rejected; and the final movement, when things work out in a positive manner, or being rejected, but finally able to move on.

“Nerves of Butterflies” focuses on two different ideas that oscillate back and forth. Episodic in nature, the movement alternates between sections of pure ensemble and sections with the focus on the Marimba. The movement migrates towards a motive that is spread throughout the entire ensemble, including the soloist.

“Tears of Thoughts” begins with an atmospheric quality amongst the solo Vibraphone and ensemble. The movement focuses on the repetition of a three, and sometimes four, chord progression.

“Smiles of Hope” is based on the chord progression from the first movement. This movement is very similar to the first movement as this movement in motivic-based and driven. Most of the movement deals with the main motive being “bounced” around throughout the ensemble.
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III. Smiles of Hope

\[ \text{Tempo: 108, Energetic} \]

\[ \text{ mf } \]

\[ \text{ w } \]

\[ \text{ p } \]

\[ \text{ b } \]

\[ \text{ j } \]

\[ \text{ n } \]

\[ \text{ Xylophone} \]

\[ \text{ Timpani} \]

\[ \text{ Mark Tree} \]

\[ \text{ Crotales} \]

\[ \text{ Triangle} \]

\[ \text{ Sleigh Bells} \]

\[ \text{ Suspended Cymbal} \]

\[ \text{ Harp} \]

\[ \text{ Piano} \]

\[ \text{ String Bass} \]
CURRICULUM VITAE

Ross Elliott
elliott21@gmail.com

Education

Master of Music in Music Composition, 2015-2017
University of Louisville

Bachelor of Music in Music Composition, 2011-2015
Bowling Green State University

Principal Teachers

Composition

Piano

Selected Guest Artist Lessons and Masterclasses
Kaija Saariaho, Carlos Sanchez-Gutierrez, Andrew Norman

Selected Honors
Warren Babb Award and Nelson Keyes Award, 2015-2017

Awards
National Federation of Music Clubs – Young Composer’s Award – 2014, A Process of a Mind (piano solo)

Selected Compositions and Performances

I am for TTBB Men’s Chorus (2017) – ca. 6:00

Where the days go for soprano and piano (2016) – ca. 3:45
Premiere performance, March 7, 2017

Fourth’s Quarrel for orchestra – ca. 1:30
Reading, April 12, 2016

Wings of the Phoenix for brass quintet (2015) – ca. 5:00
Premiere performance, November 18, 2015

A Process of a Mind for solo piano (2013-2014) – ca. 9:00
Performance, April 19, 2015