

IN THE MIDST

Introduction

At any one point in time, there are an infinite number of events happening, on all levels of personal and universal life, all at once. It is extraordinary to think that while someone is sleeping comfortably in their bed, their next-door neighbor could be in serious pain. In a given county, it could be snowing on one side and not on the other. The examples of 'unrelated' events happening concurrently are endless and probably more than the human was meant to process, but we can contemplate the fact of it.

Written in January 2003, *In the Midst* is about the ongoing occurrence of multi-dimensional overlays of life, all living and processing at one time. The piece tries to express the immensity of this universal reality through an underlying wish and urge to find a unifying principle that connects the many individual parts.

From a person practicing in a practice room to someone climbing the Himalayas, humans are looking for meaning and purpose "in the midst" of it all. Perhaps the universe itself is a being, living its enormous life through all the lives in it? While an atom in our body is microscopic, compared to our organs and limbs, its importance is nonetheless profound. And as small as we can seem compared to the physical universe, we are a significant part of its huge cosmic life. All are playing a part, "in the midst."



Technical Notes

In the Midst is for four tenor trombones and two bass trombones. It can be played as a sextet but the fullness and expansion the piece musically calls for is enhanced with doubling all the parts.

Since there are many triplet figures and double rhythms happening at the same time, in different ways through out the piece, it is a musically very advanced piece and requires sensitivity and rhythmic focus to keep intact all the inflections and nuances the rhythmic overlays emphasize.

It is important to follow the words that are written under the music as best as one can. There also is plenty of room for large dynamic contrasts and articulation variation. The repeated rhythm, that

for Trombone Choir

Started Jan 9th, 2003

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8

gradual accel - - - - -

mf

mf

mf

mf

mf

mf

12

♩ = 88

ff

ff

ff

ff

ff

ff

15 Tempo I

15

mf *mf* *mf* Build intensity

ffmf *ffmf*

ffmf *ffmf*

19

f *fp* *fp* *f*

f

f