

# TOURBILLON

(Whirlwind)

*David R. Gillingham*

## INSTRUMENTATION

Violin  
Trumpet in Bb  
Piano

## PROGRAM NOTES

*Tourbillon* is French for "whirlwind." When I was a young child growing up on a farm in Wisconsin, I remember being fascinated with what my brother and I called "small tornadoes." These small "whirlwinds" actually frightened me as I thought that I might be lifted up by one and carried away. These meteorological events would start small, grow in size and move from side to side picking up debris and carrying it skyward. Sometimes several would form and sometimes they would converge. But these little "dust winds" would often dissipate just as quickly as they would form.

The structure of *Tourbillon* follows the random appearances of these whirlwinds, twisting and turning and carrying two basic motives throughout the piece, the first heard by the trumpet in measure 3 and the second in the piano at measure sixteen. The circling and twisting dissipates in the middle of the piece to a calm "summer breeze." But then, the motion resumes only to again dissipate at the end of the piece.

Polychordal diminished seventh chords provide the harmonic basis for the piece along with augmented 9<sup>th</sup> chords for the secondary theme. The melodic material is derived mostly from octatonic scales.

## COMPOSER BIO

David Gillingham (b. 1947) earned Bachelor and Master Degrees in Instrumental Music Education from the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh and the PhD in Music Theory/Composition from Michigan State University. Dr. Gillingham has an international reputation for the works he has written for band and percussion. Many of these works are now considered standards in the repertoire.

His numerous awards include the 1981 DeMoulin Award for Concerto for Bass Trombone and Wind Ensemble and the 1990 International Barlow Competition (Brigham Young University) for *Heroes, Lost and Fallen*. Dr. Gillingham's works have been recorded by Klavier, Sony and Summit and Centaur. His works are regularly performed by nationally recognized ensembles including the Prague Radio Orchestra, Cincinnati Conservatory of Music Wind Ensemble, The University of Georgia Bands, North Texas University Wind Ensemble, Michigan State University Wind Ensemble, Oklahoma State Wind Ensemble, University of Oklahoma Wind Ensemble, Florida State Wind Ensemble, University of Florida (Miami) Wind Ensemble, University of Illinois Symphonic Band, Illinois State Wind Symphony, University of Minnesota Wind Ensemble, Indiana University Wind Ensemble and the University of Wisconsin Wind Ensemble. Also, nationally known artists, Fred Mills (Canadian Brass), Randall Hawes (Detroit Symphony) and Charles Vernon (Chicago Symphony Orchestra) have performed works by Dr. Gillingham.

Dr. Gillingham is a Professor of Music at Central Michigan University and the recipient of an Excellence in Teaching Award (1990), a Summer Fellowship (1991), a Research Professorship (1995), and recently, the President's Research Investment Fund grant for his co-authorship of a proposal to establish an International Center for New Music at Central Michigan University. He is a member of ASCAP and has been receiving the ASCAP Standard Award for Composers of Concert Music since 1996.

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The musical score is arranged in three systems. The first system includes staves for Violin, Trumpet in Bb, and Piano. The Violin part begins with a series of sixteenth notes, marked with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The Trumpet in Bb part is mostly silent in this section. The Piano part features a complex rhythmic pattern with eighth and sixteenth notes, marked with a forte (*f*) dynamic and a 'no ped.' instruction. The second system continues the Piano part with a 'ped.' instruction. The third system shows the Violin and Trumpet in Bb parts with melodic lines, while the Piano part continues with a steady eighth-note accompaniment, marked with a forte (*f*) dynamic and a 'ped.' instruction. A large watermark 'www.hickeys.com' is overlaid diagonally across the middle of the score.

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The image shows a musical score for a piece titled "TOURBILLON". The score is written for piano and is divided into two systems. The first system consists of four staves: two for the right hand and two for the left hand. The right-hand staves feature intricate, rapid sixteenth-note passages, with dynamic markings of *mf*, *f*, and *ff*. The left-hand staves provide a harmonic and rhythmic foundation, with dynamic markings of *mf*, *f*, and *ff*. A "no ped." instruction is present in the first system. The second system also consists of four staves, continuing the complex textures. It includes dynamic markings of *f* and *ff*, and "ped." instructions. A large, diagonal watermark "www.hickeys.com" is overlaid across the center of the page.

TOURBILLON

Violin

# TOURBILLON

(Whirlwind)

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Whirling ♩ = 100

ff f

4 mf ff

7 ff f

10

14 ff

18

21 f

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Trumpet in B $\flat$

# TOURBILLON

(Whirlwind)

David R. Gillingham

Whirling  $\text{♩} = 100$

5

8

11

13

19

22

30

*ff*

*mf*

*ff*

*mf*

*ff*

*f*

*f*

*ff*

*mf*

*p*

10

20



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