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The Conch. [Original composition]

Witherspoon, Ann Rivers, M.M.

Rice University, 1988

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UMI
RICE UNIVERSITY

THE CONCH

BY

ANN RIVERS WITHERSPOON

A THESIS SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE MASTERS OF MUSICAL ARTS

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April, 1968
"THE CONCH"

Ann Rivers Witherspoon

ABSTRACT

"The Conch" is an orchestral piece in four sections with a coda. The piece is a musical interpretation of the life of a conch shell. Section One announces the arrival of the conch shell onto the beach, after a battle with the waves breaking onto the shore. Section Two is the melodic theme of the conch as is someone were blowing on the shell as a musical instrument. Section Three simulates the wave sounds (musical shapes moving in and out of each other) that one hears while holding a conch shell close to the ear. Section Four uses fragments of the first three sections of the piece to tie together all the beauty of this shell. After this climactic section a coda reiterates the "song of the conch" and quickly brings the piece to a lyrical, rather haunting end.

Instrumentation:

3 Flutes (Piccolo)
3 Oboes
3 Clarinets in B♭
3 Bassoons
4 Horns in F
3 Trumpets in B♭
3 Trombones
1 Tuba
4 Timpani
Bass Drum
Suspended Cymbals (with hard mallets and wire brushes)
Triangle
Tam-Tam
Mark Chimes
Marimba
Xylophone
Harp

Violin I
Violin II
Viola
Cello
Double Bass

Notation:

Accidentals affect only the note it precedes and immediate repetitions.
A repeated pattern is shown in this way:

\[ \begin{array}{c}
\vdots \\
\vdots \\
\vdots \\
\end{array} \]

THE SCORE IS IN C. All pitches sound as written with the exception of the following octave transpositions:
Piccolo sounds 8va
Xylophone sounds 8va
Double Bass sounds 8va

Duration: 10 minutes 24 seconds
Flutes

Oboes

Marcas

Harp

Take Flute.
As if waves of sound were breaking on the shores, then receding, always overlapping...