INFORMATION TO USERS

This manuscript has been reproduced from the microfilm master. UMI films the text directly from the original or copy submitted. Thus, some thesis and dissertation copies are in typewriter face, while others may be from any type of computer printer.

The quality of this reproduction is dependent upon the quality of the copy submitted. Broken or indistinct print, colored or poor quality illustrations and photographs, print bleedthrough, substandard margins, and improper alignment can adversely affect reproduction.

In the unlikely event that the author did not send UMI a complete manuscript and there are missing pages, these will be noted. Also, if unauthorized copyright material had to be removed, a note will indicate the deletion.

Oversize materials (e.g., maps, drawings, charts) are reproduced by sectioning the original, beginning at the upper left-hand corner and continuing from left to right in equal sections with small overlaps. Each original is also photographed in one exposure and is included in reduced form at the back of the book.

Photographs included in the original manuscript have been reproduced xerographically in this copy. Higher quality 6" x 9" black and white photographic prints are available for any photographs or illustrations appearing in this copy for an additional charge. Contact UMI directly to order.

UMI
A Bell & Howell Information Company
300 North Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-1346 USA
313/761-4700 800/521-0600
RICE UNIVERSITY

THE HOWLING INFINITE

by

PHILLIP RATLIFF

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

APPROVED, THESIS COMMITTEE:

Ellsworth Milburn, Chairman
Professor of Composition

Richard Lavenda
Associate Professor of Composition

Honey Meconi
Associate Professor of Musicology

Walter Widrig
Associate Professor of Art History

Houston, Texas

May, 1995
ABSTRACT

The Howling Infinite

by

Phillip Ratliff

The Howling Infinite is an orchestral work inspired by portions of Herman Melville's Moby Dick. Musical motives, gestures, and timbres in the work are derived from the text's rich imagery, suggesting such pictorial elements as the vastness of the ocean and the corresponding philosophical idea of the human spirit's search for the eternal. The title of the work was derived from Melville's belief that a life based on the contemplative search for truth and meaning, though it takes the seeker into confrontation with perilous truths, is by far more desirable than an existence of spiritual comfort and complacency. As Melville states, "so better it is to perish in that howling infinite than be ingloriously dashed upon the lee."
THE HOWLING INFINITE

For Orchestra

Flute 1
Flute 2 (Piccolo)
Oboe 1
Oboe 2 (English Horn)
Clarinet 1 in B-flat
Clarinet 2 in B-flat (Bass Clarinet)
Bassoons 1 and 2
4 Horns
3 Trumpets
3 Trombones
Tuba
Timpani
Percussion 1 (bell tree, triangle, glockenspiel, tam tam, crotales)
Percussion 2 (vibraphone, anvil, chimes, rototoms, three suspended cymbals, brake drum)
Piano
Violins 1
Violins 2
Viola
Cello
Contrabass

The score is in C. All instruments sound in the written octave with the exception of piccolo, glockenspiel, crotales, and contrabass, which are written in their standard octave transpositions.
PLEASE NOTE

Page(s) not included with original material and unavailable from author or university. Filmed as received.

UMI