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Wallal Downs
A Work for Symphony Orchestra

by

Russell Sarre

A THESIS SUBMITTED
IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE

Doctor of Musical Arts

APPROVED, THESIS COMMITTEE:

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Houston, Texas
May, 1999
ABSTRACT

Wallal Downs
A Work for Symphony Orchestra

by

Russell Sarre

This work attempts to integrate both tonal and non-tonal musical elements into a cohesive, intelligible unit. It utilizes a number of highly gestural melodic and harmonic entities which are juxtaposed with one another throughout the piece. The overall form of this work can be understood as an arch shape; the letter scheme ABCBA best describes it. The A sections are, for the most part, slow and quite sedate. The internal sections are fast and quite forceful with driving rhythms and dense textures. Underlying this structure, yet not always working in accordance with it, is a harmonic scheme which serves, among other things to contrast repetitions of internal sections. The “tonal centers” employed can be seen, sequentially, as: F, E, F#, E, Bb, E; an harmonic rondo. The fundamental pitch of the piece is E; each of the tonal regions acting in a spring-board manner pushing out to the furthest region of Bb. It is the transition from Bb back to E which provides the climactic moment of the composition. The work lasts for eight minutes and is scored for a full symphony orchestra.
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WALLAL DOWNS

FOR SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

BY

RUSSELL SARRE

ca. 8 mins
Wallal Downs

Russell Sarre 1999