RICE UNIVERSITY

towards silos and smokestacks for Orchestra

By

Derek Michael Jenkins

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

Master of Music

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towards silos and smokestacks takes its name from the Silos and Smokestacks Heritage Area. In 1996, the northeast third of Iowa became a federally designated heritage area to pass on the story of American agriculture to younger generations. I spent much of my childhood growing up in Iowa. Two contrary aspects in the surrounding landscape caught my fascination. First, there are the vast cornfields that expand outwards for mile. Second, this countryside is home to countless grain silos and billowing smokestacks of small Midwestern cities. These monoliths can be seen miles away like small islands within Iowa’s rolling agricultural oceans. These structures seem to slowly grow into colossal pillars giving a vertical, albeit fleeting, dimension to the scenery. This piece is an attempt to juxtapose this sense of vastness and the monoliths that interrupt the sprawling “amber waves of grain” through the use of spatial aspects and ever expanding register.
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Duration: about 5’00”

Instrumentation

1 Piccolo
2 Flutes
2 Oboes
2 Clarinets in Bb
1 Bass Clarinet
2 Bassoons
1 Contrabassoon
4 Horns in F
3 Trumpets in C
2 Tenor Trombones
1 Bass Trombone
1 Tuba

Timpani
Percussion (2 players):

1. Chimes
2. Triangle, Suspended Cymbal

Strings

Performance Notes

• For two-part divisi, the strings should be divided as outside and inside players. For three-part divisi, the strings should be divided into front (top divisi), middle (middle divisi), and back (bottom divisi)

• When dynamics appear above and below a staff, the dynamics above the staff are pertain to the first part and the ones below to the second part.
slowly, as if emerging from a fog \( \frac{3}{4} \) 52

Prelude:

Flute I, II

Oboe, English Horn, Bassoon

Clarinet I, II, III, IV

Bass Clarinet

Violin I, II

Viola

Violoncello

Contrabass

Tuba, Bassoon

Chimes

Timpani

Cymbals

Triangle

Slowly, as if emerging from a fog \( \frac{3}{4} \) 52

Score

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TOWARDS SILOS AND SMOKESTACKS

1

14 15 16 17 18 19

Pno.

1

Fl

H

1

Obo.

H

1

B. Cl.

H

1

Bsn.

H

1

C. Bn.

H

1

C. Tpt.

C.Tpt.

1

Horn III

1

Tempo

1

Pos.

1

VIo. I

1
diss.

VIo. II

1
diss.

VIo.

1
diss.

VIo.

1
diss.

Ch.
TOWARDS SILOS AND SMOKESTACKS
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TOWARDS SILOS AND SMOKESTACKS

Solo Vln.

Vln. I
div a 3

Vln. II
div a 3

Vla.
div a 3

Vc.
div a 3

Solo Vln.

freely, molto rubato

molto rit. al fine