ABSTRACT

Title of Document: ROUTE POTOMAC FOR CONCERT BAND
Jonathan Graybill, Doctor of Musical Arts, 2014
Directed By: Professor of Composition, Lawrence Moss, Department of Music

*Route Potomac* is my first multi-movement work for concert band. The piece is loosely cyclic, in that the opening melody of the first movement is used in each of the following movements.

The entire piece began as a geographical work, something I tend to write whenever I move to new locations. In the final product, the piece holds only vague references to what was originally planned as a more literal work. However, the original premises can still be found. The idea was to write a multi-movement work built around the Potomac River, and its importance in historical development, and as a vital tributary of the Chesapeake Bay. *Flashback’s* brutal and militaristic nature can be traced to the river’s involvement in the American Civil War to flowing by Washington, DC where
rhetoric and decisions of war transpire. The image I had in mind for Stone and Twilight was the river placidly flowing by the Tidal Basin area of Washington, DC during the evening hours in summer. Against this image is the contrast of colossal monuments of stone to influential leaders in cultural development that are illuminated against the evening sky. Rush Hour is a highly energetic movement that explores the ensemble in contrasts between blocked vertical sonorities against longer horizontal melodies. Seven of the pitches of the melody from movement one are compressed into the quick, ascending gesture that opens the work, followed by exploration of the rhythmic motives from the opening gesture of the same movement. The form is ABABCBBA, with a coda that encapsulates many of the ideas of the movement.
ROUTE POTOMAC

By

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Dissertation submitted to the Faculty of the Graduate School of the University of Maryland, College Park, in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Doctorate of Musical Arts 2014

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Note: Route Potomac is included in a separate file.
Instrumentation:

Piccolo
[3] Flute 1
[3] Flute 2
2 Oboes (second doubles English horn in second movement)
E-flat Clarinet
[3] Clarinet in B-flat 1
[3] Clarinet in B-flat 2
[3] Clarinet in B-flat 3
[2] Bass Clarinet in B-flat
2 Bassoons

Soprano Saxophone
Alto Saxophone
Tenor Saxophone
Baritone Saxophone

4 Horns
3 Trumpets in C
2 Trombones
Bass Trombone
2 Euphoniums
[2] Tuba

Celesta (second movement only)

Timpani (plus Bell Tree in movement II)

Percussion  (4 players, though 1, 3, and 4 can each be split between two players)

1.  2 Tom-toms, 4 Suspended cymbals (large, medium, small, and splash), Hi-hat, 2 Brake drums, Muted Cowbell, Ratchet, Tubular Chimes, and Marimba.

2.  Snare drum, 2 Bongos, 2 Congas, large Suspended cymbal, 2 Triangles, Slapstick, and Crotale (upper set).

3.  3 Tom-toms, 2 Timbales, Chinese cymbal, large Tam-tam, 2 Wood Blocks (small and medium), 4 Temple Blocks, Glockenspiel, and Xylophone.


*"Wooden Plank" is a slab of wood (at least 14'x20'), and struck with a wooden hammer or plastic chime hammer.

Score in C
Duration: 17'00