GARUDA
for orchestra

Daniel Bickerton
(2009-12)
Garuda

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for orchestra:

INSTRUMENTATION

2 Flutes (1 doubling Piccolo, 1 doubling Alto Flute)
1 Oboe
1 Cor Anglais
1 B flat Clarinet
1 B flat Bass Clarinet
1 Bassoon
1 Contrabassoon

2 F Horns
1 B flat Trumpet
1 Trombone

Percussion: (four players)
Timpani (1 player), Crotales (1 player), Vibraphone and Tom-Toms (1 player),
Bass Drum, Tam-Tam, Suspended Cymbal, Chinese Cymbal, Large Triangle,
2 Tom-Toms, Glockenspiel (1 player)

Harp

Piano

Strings [min. 8.8.6.6.4]

SCORE IN C
The Garuda is a large bird-like creature found in Hindu and Buddhist mythology, considered to be the Eastern equivalent of the Western ‘Phoenix’. The importance of the bird varies from country to country, however in every instance the essential characteristics of the creature are the same. It is a symbol of power and speed, an enormous predatory bird signifying intelligence with huge wings that, when flapped, create hurricane-like winds which darken the sky, capable of uprooting trees and destroying houses.

For this piece I became fascinated with three different Eastern contexts for the mythical bird:
1. Buddhist meditation devices
2. Thai court music
3. Mongolian ‘Garuda’ dance

The music attempts to draw parallels with the Westernised concept of the life-cycle of the ‘Phoenix’, which according to tradition, lives for five hundred years. At the end of its life-cycle the phoenix builds itself a nest of cinnamon twigs that it then ignites. Both nest and bird burn fiercely and are reduced to ashes, from which a new, young phoenix arises. My interpretation of the Garuda is that of a much stronger, majestic being that draws together aspects of Eastern religion, dance and music.

The accompanying graphic ‘Flight of the Garuda’ (front cover) is American artist Butch Hancock’s interpretation of the mythological creature (2004).

Duration: c. 18 minutes
Forte con sordino

Piano con sordino

Mezzo piano con sordino

Leggero con sordino

Mezzo forte con sordino

Mezzo forte con sordino

Piano con sordino

Piano con sordino

Piano con sordino

Piano con sordino

Piano con sordino

Piano con sordino

Piano con sordino

Piano con sordino

Piano con sordino

Piano con sordino

Piano con sordino

Piano con sordino

Piano con sordino

Con sordino

Con sordino

Con sordino