

justin merritt
janus mask *for orchestra*

NOTES ON THE PROGRAM

Janus, the Roman god of gates and doorways, is portrayed in masks as having 2 faces, each pointing in the opposite direction. Liars and traitors are sometimes described

"...the highlight of the year came Nov. 9 with Justin Merritt's Five Preludes for piano..."
-Peter Schimpf,
Bloomington Independent

as being Janus-faced because one is never sure which the true face is.

Like the mask, this work is divided into two opposing sections. The first half of the work is an aggressive *Allegro* in which a series of increasingly powerful peaks explode and extinguish themselves

in a furious culmination. The second half of the work, marked *Lento desolato*, is a slow and tortured progression. The work ends with a massive climax, indicating a new beginning beyond the next gate.

In 2001, Justin Merritt, became the youngest-ever winner of the prestigious ASCAP Foundation/Rudolph Nissim award for *Janus Mask*.

-notes by the composer

"Several times I wrote "Wow!" next to a work being played..."
-Peter Jacobi, Herald Times

justinmerrit

In 2000 composer Justin Merritt (bn. 1975) was the youngest-ever winner of the ASCAP Foundation/Rudolph Nissim Award for *Janus Mask*. He is also the winner of a host of other awards including the 2008-09 Copland Award, the 2008 Minnesota Orchestra Composer Institute Prize for *River of Blood*, and the 2006 Polyphonos Prize

He received his Bachelors from Trinity University and his Masters and Doctorate from Indiana University. He studied composition with Samuel Adler, Sven-David Sandström, Claude Baker, Timothy Kramer, Don Freund, and electronic and computer music with Jeffrey Hass. He is currently Assistant Professor of Composition at St. Olaf College. He resides in Northfield, Minnesota with his wife Yuedong and their children Cullen Fang Ouxiang and Molly Fang Qinghe.

"...demands an audience's attention... Merritt's piece was the standout."
-Rob Hubbard,
Pioneer Press

INSTRUMENTATION

flutes 1-2 (flt. 2 dbl. picc.)
oboes 1-2 (ob. 2 dbl. Eng. hrn.)
Bb clarinets 1-2 (clar. 2 dbl. b. cl)
bassoons 1-2

horns 1-4
trumpets 1-2
trombone
bass trombone

timpani (set of 5)

percussion (2 players)
snare drum, 4 tom toms, floor tom, kick drum, bass drum, crotales, glockenspiel, xylophone, vibraphone, marimba, tubular bells, crash cymbal, suspended cymbal, 2 brake drums, tam-tam, whip, anvil, & tambourine

Harp

Strings

Transposed Score
Duration: c. 11'

Janus Mask

for orchestra

Justin Merritt

Adagio furioso $\text{♩} = 54$

This section of the musical score features a complex arrangement of woodwind, brass, and percussion instruments. The woodwinds include Piccolo, Flute 1, Oboe 1, Oboe 2, Clarinet in B♭ 1, Clarinet in B♭ 2, Bassoons 1-2, Horns in F 1-2, Horns in F 3-4, Trumpets in C 1-2, Trombone, and Bass Trombone. The brass section consists of Timpani, Anvil, Bass Drum, and Tom-toms. The score is set in common time, with dynamic markings such as **ff**, **ffp**, and **f**. The instrumentation is highly synchronized, creating a dense and powerful sound.

Adagio furioso $\text{♩} = 54$

This section of the musical score features a different instrumentation, primarily strings. It includes Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Cello, and Double Bass. The strings play sustained notes and chords, with dynamic markings like **ff**, **ff non. div.**, and **ffp**. The tempo is indicated as $\text{♩} = 54$.

(8) (9)

Picc. Fl. 1 Ob. 1 Ob. 2 Cl. in B♭ 1 Cl. in B♭ 2 Bsn. 1-2

Hn. in F 1-2 Hn. in F 3-4 Tpt. in C 1-2 Tbn. B. Tbn.

Timpani B. D. Tom-t.

Vln. I Vln. II Vla. Vc. Db.

cresc. poc a poco

cresc. poc a poco

ff *ff*

a2 *ff* *ff*

cresc. poc a poco

cresc. poc a poco

ff *ff*

A Allegro feroce ♩=132

15

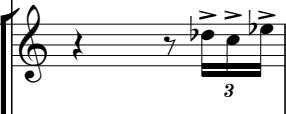
Picc. 

Fl. 1 

Ob. 1-2 

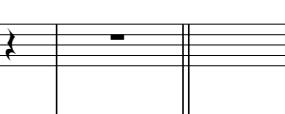
Cl.s in B♭ 1-2 

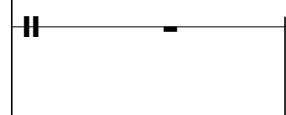
Bsn. 1-2 

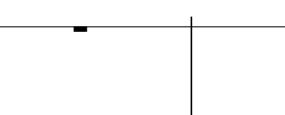
Hn. in F 1-2 

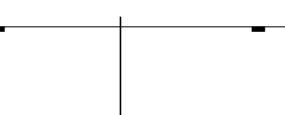
Hn. in F 3-4 

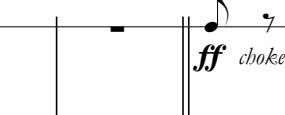
Tpt. in C 1-2 

Tbn. B. Tbn. 

Crash Cym. 

B. D. 

S. D. 

Tom-t. 

ff choke

R.S.

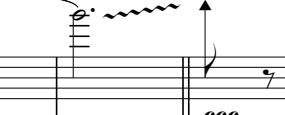
ff

A Allegro feroce ♩=132

Vln. I 

Vln. II 

Vla. 

Vc. 

D. b. 

ffff

ffff

marcato, fierce

f

marcato, fierce

f

ord. tr.

sul pont.

f

*this is a sample only
to purchase the complete score or parts and
for other compositions by justinmerritt please visit:*

www.mooneast.com

*or send emails to
info@mooneast.com*

other compositions by justin merritt

orchestral	Janus Mask	winds in 2s
	River of Blood	winds in 2s
	Dervish.....	winds in 2s
	Lachryme	string orchestra
	Monster	winds in 3s

choral	Corde natus	SATB
	Lamentations	SATB
	Hay Días.....	SMsATBrB
	Nativity	SATB
	Adoro Te Devote	SATB
	Fire Sermon	SSATB & orchestra

solo	Standard Deviation	violin
	Bar for Hans Sachs.....	flute
	Veloce.....	violin & piano
	Coupling.....	organ
	Drum Break.....	percussion

chamber	A Gauze of Misted Silver	string quartet & harp
	Ravening	string quartet
	Invocation	8 solo brass
	The Day Florestan Murdered Magister Raro	clarinet, violin, cello, & piano
	Trio	violin, cello, & piano

piano	5 Preludes	piano
	Chaconne: Mercy Endures	piano
	Rococo Suite	piano
	Sierpinski Gasket.....	piano
	Windchimes.....	piano
	Hive.....	4 pianos, 16 hands

vocal	Dissonance	song cycle
	Steps Into Stillness	song cycle
	Dhammapada.....	song cycle
	London Thoroughfare, 2AM	tenor, horn, violin, & piano
	May Evening in Central Park.....	baritone & piano