RICE UNIVERSITY

The Four Winds for Orchestra

by

Luke Carlson

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

Master of Music

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ABSTRACT

The Four Winds for Orchestra

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It is my intent to portray the "Four Winds" in an abstract way, painting a musical impression in each movement. To facilitate this, I am treating each wind as a unique character and featuring one of the four families of orchestral instruments in each movement. The first, entitled "Squall," is brisk and energetic, like a coastal breeze blowing from the West. It is represented by the string section which soars in dense clouds of pitch clusters. "Zephyr" is calm and light, like a cold and bitter Northern wind. The percussion propels the motion in a subtle and delicate fashion. The third wind is a warm, sweltering Southern wind, featuring richly orchestrated woodwind chorales; it is entitled "Sirocco," after the hot, dusty and humid Saharan wind. "Cyclone" is the final wind that blows from the East. Its mood is unrelenting, fierce and overpowering; it features the brass as apocalyptic messengers.

Instrumentation

3 Flutes

Fl. 1 doubles Alto flute Fl. 3 doubles Piccolo 3 Oboes 3 Clarinets in Bb 1 Bass Clarinet 3 Bassoons

Bsn. 3 doubles Contrabassoon

- 4 Horns in F
- 3 Trumpets in C
- 2 Tenor Trombones

1 Bass Trombone

Tuba

Timpani

Percussion:

Piano Celesta Harp Violin I Violin II Viola Cello Double Bass

Percussion 1: Slaptstick 6 Tom Toms Vibraphone <u>Percussion 2:</u> Snare Drum Suspended Cymbal Tam Tam Glockenspiel Percussion 3: Marimba Large Bass Drum Tam Tam Toms Percussion 4: Small Bass Drum

Performance Notes The gesture on the timpani (Mvt. III) is achieved by placing a cymbal on the

drum head, as shown in the illustration.

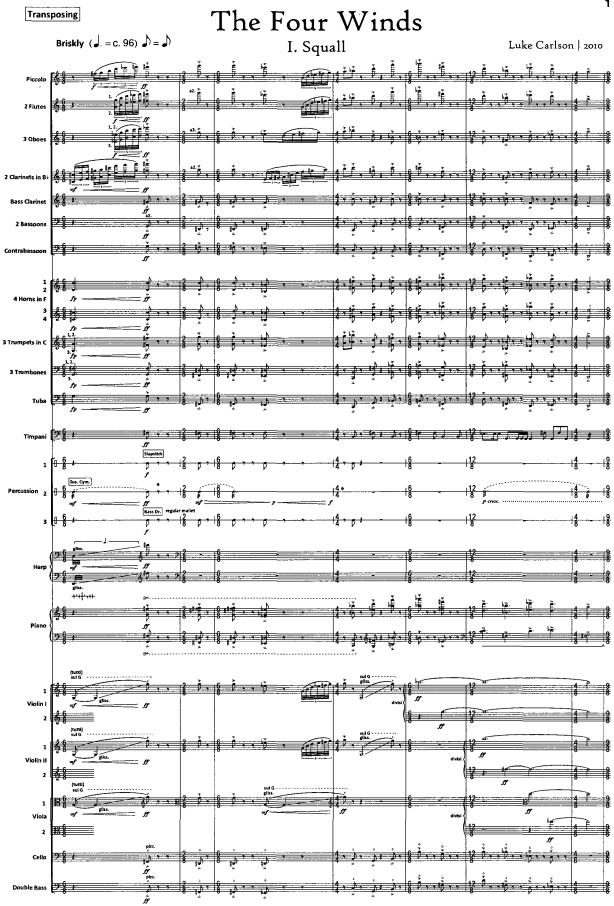


Program Notes

"The Four Winds" takes its title from the Bible. They are mentioned in both the Old and New Testaments: from the Old Testament, Ezekiel 37:9, "Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live." And from the New Testament, Revelation 7:1, "I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth to prevent any wind from blowing on the land or on the sea or on any tree." These "winds" are physical and spiritual; constructive and destructive; literal and figurative. They refer both to giving life and causing death and it is this mysterious dichotomy, as well as the wondrous imagery of the winds, that serves as the inspiration for this music.

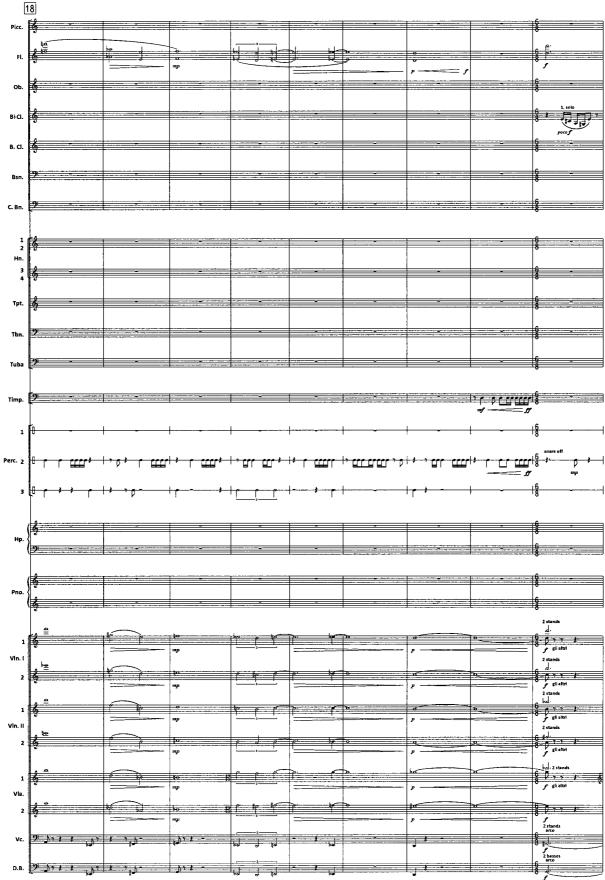
It is my intent to portray these "Four Winds" in an abstract way, painting a musical impression in each movement. To facilitate this, I am treating each wind as a unique character unto itself and featuring one of the four families of orchestral instruments in each movement. The first, entitled "Squall," is brisk and energetic, like a sudden coastal breeze blowing from the West. It is represented by the string section which soars in dense, but not overly dissonant, clouds of pitch clusters. "Zephyr," the second movement, is calm and light, like a cold and bitter Northern wind. The percussion propels the motion in a subtle and delicate fashion. The third wind is a warm, sweltering Southern wind, featuring richly orchestrated woodwind chorales; it is entitled "Sirocco," after the hot, dusty and humid Saharan wind. "Cyclone" is the final wind that blows from the East. Its mood is unrelenting, fierce and overpowering; it features the brass as apocalyptic messengers.

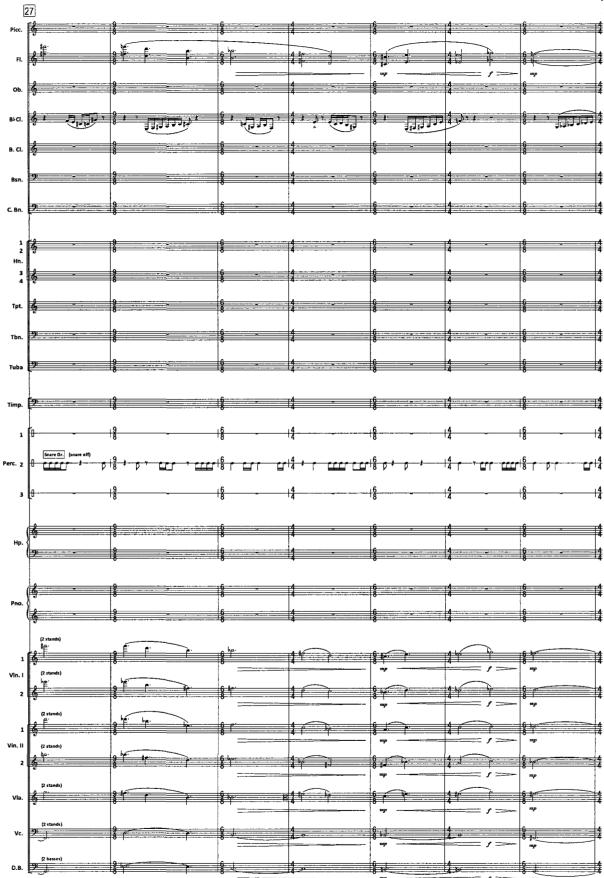


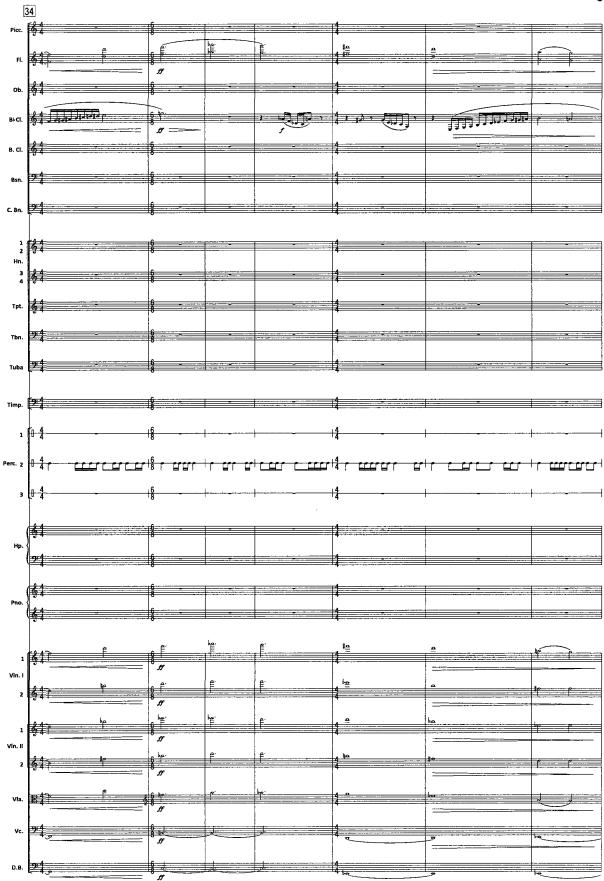


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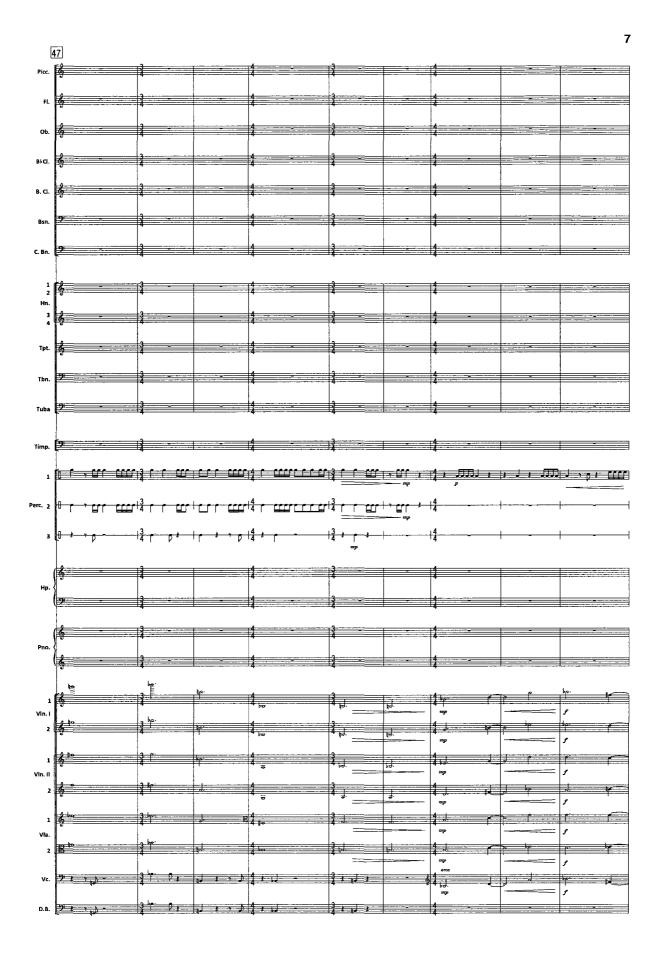


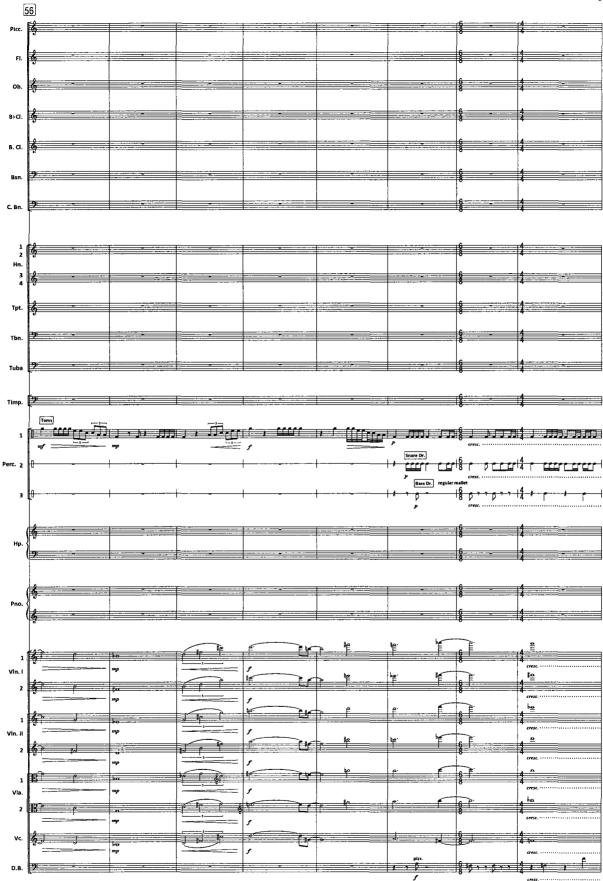














II. Zephyr















mf _____ ppp



mf =



IV. Cyclone



* All gliss. should be played as written, not as port.



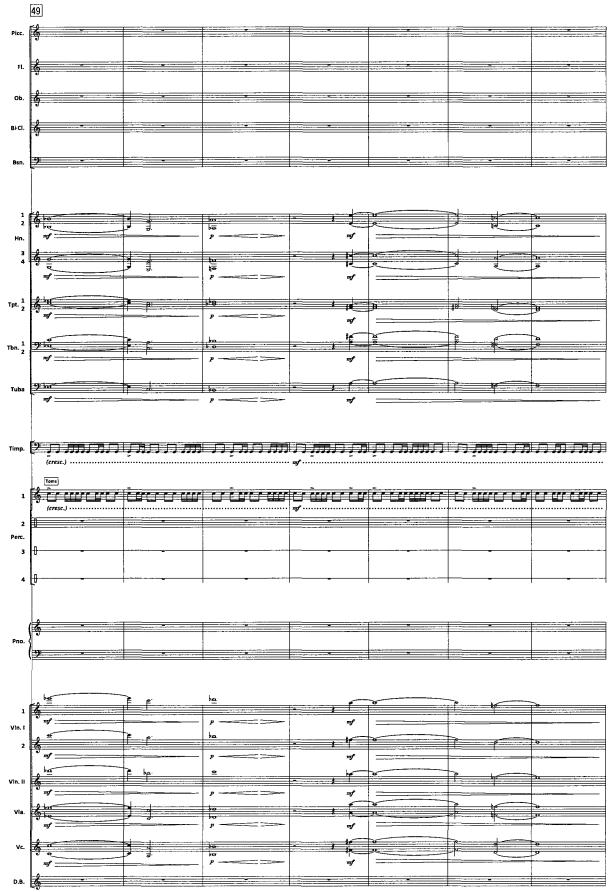
















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