## ARCHISTRATEGOS

A THESIS IN<br>Music Composition

Presented to the Faculty of the University of Missouri-Kansas City in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree

MASTER OF MUSIC

by TIMOTHY ROY

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# ARCHISTRATEGOS 

Timothy Jordan Roy, Candidate for the Master of Music Degree<br>University of Missouri-Kansas City, 2014


#### Abstract

A few years ago I became interested in Christian Orthodoxy, a faith tradition as old as my own - Roman Catholicism - yet unfamiliar to most in the Western world. I was seduced by the mysticism and sensuality of Orthodoxy, from the more poetic approach to theology to the engagement of the senses during the Divine Liturgy. Of particular interest has been the dazzling artwork ubiquitous to Orthodox churches around the world known as iconography. Usually a painting or mosaic presented on a flat panel, an icon depicts a holy individual or individuals, either alone or within the context of a specific event from scripture or sacred tradition. Orthodoxy considers icons to be first and foremost didactic in nature, each one serving to convey a specific teaching or theological concept, facilitated in part through universally familiar symbolism. But despite many artistic restraints, iconography is astonishingly nuanced and capable of elevating one's attention to the heavens.

Archistrategos is a musical reaction to various iconographic depictions of Michael the Archangel. In choosing materials, I reflected on the dual nature of the angel who is both a military leader charged with leading heaven's armies against the Gates of


Hell ("Archistrategos," an ancient Greek military term for a commanding officer, is a common Orthodox reference to Michael) and a peaceful, protective entity. This duality gives rise to contrasting materials: sections marked by agitated rhythms, sharp attacks, short phrase lengths, dissonant pitch collections, and militant percussion writing are juxtaposed against passages of more tranquil, celestial music characterized by expansive, legato phrasing and a more consonant harmonic palette. In the climax of the work, elements from both musical domains are combined. The aforementioned mysticism and sensuality of Orthodoxy inspired the unusual timbres (e.g. bowed woodblock and rubbed cowbells) and the sparseness and drawn-out pacing of the middle section.

## APPROVAL PAGE

The faculty listed below, appointed by the Dean of the Conservatory of Music and Dance, have examined a thesis titled "Archistrategos," presented by Timothy Roy, candidate for the Master of Music degree, and certify that in their opinion it is worthy of acceptance.

Supervisory Committee<br>James Mobberley, D.M.A., Committee Chair<br>Conservatory of Music<br>Chen Yi, D.M.A.<br>Conservatory of Music<br>Paul Rudy, D.M.A.<br>Conservatory of Music

## CONTENTS

ABSTRACT ..... iii
INSTRUMENTATION ..... vii
PERFORMANCE NOTES ..... viii
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS ..... xi
SCORE .....  1
VITA ..... 72

## Flute (=piccolo)

Clarinet in Bb
Trumpet in C (with Harmon and straight mutes)
Violin
Cello
Contrabass
Piano (player must have a triangle beater)

## Percussion I

xylophone (shared with Perc II)
glockenspiel
vibraphone, motor off (shared with Perc. II)
crotales, two octaves (shared with Perc. II)
4 Japanese prayer bowls $\xlongequal[\&]{\ell}$
crystal wine glass (shared with Perc. II) $\varrho_{\text {- }}$ notated on octaye below sunding pith! vibraslap
tambourine
triangle
snare
bongos
congas
mid-low tom
suspended cymbal (shared with Perc. II)
woodblock
wind chimes (shared with Perc. II)
tam-tam (shared with Perc. II)


## Percussion II

xylophone (shared with Perc. I)
glockenspiel (shared with Perc. I)
vibraphone, motor off (shared with Perc. I)
crotales, two octaves (shared with Perc. I)
timpano (shared with Perc. I)
bass drum
tam-tam
sleighbells
crystal wine glass (shared with Perc. I)
suspended cymbal (shared with Perc. I)
wind chimes (shared with Perc. I)
2 brass cowbells
chime(s) (possibly shared with Perc. I)

Score is notated at concert pitch. Octave-transposing clefs are used to clarify that crotales and glockenspiel sound two octaves higher than written, piccolo and xylophone sound one octave higher than written, and contrabass sounds one octave lower than written.

## Meterless Sections

Measures without meter (senza misura) are designated by $\mathbf{X}$ in place of a traditional time signature. Events take place at non-specific points in the given time-span. The placement of each event within the horizontal space of the measure gives the approximate timing of the start of the event. Dashed lines indicate 1) when two or more events must occur simultaneously, and 2) when one event immediately follows another. The conductor will provide visual cues in many cases, though the parts include extensive cueing information.

The large white arrows denote major junctions in the music and double as rehearsal marks. In the section beginning with m .98 , they are numbered in three cycles of 15: this enables the conductor to signal a number in one hand and cue/give a downbeat with the other.

## Accidentals

In measures with meter, accidentals carry through the measure for the octave in which they occur. Numerous courtesy accidentals are provided for ease of reading and to prevent possible confusion arising from dissonance between parts. In measures without meter, accidentals apply only to the notes they proceed, except in the case of immediately 1) repeated notes or 2 ) two alternating pitches (trill/tremolo).

1) all pitches $B$ b
2) $B b$ and $D b$ carry through group


Microtonal Accidentals
d. $\quad 3 / 4$-tone flat
d $\quad 1 / 4$-tone flat
\# $\quad 1 / 4$-tone sharp
\# $3 / 4$-tone sharp

Special Notation / Techniques
Glissandi, notated with solid lines, begin immediately. Exceptions are noted with text (e.g. "Begin glissando slowly and accelerate toward arrival note")
... Slashed groups of grace notes are played as fast as possible.
 framework, but not duration. Groups of notes are to be played as fast as possible.
$\ldots$ Indicates a free accelerando from/to a certain rate of speed (specified by the beams) over the specified duration.
$\ldots$ Indicates a free rallentando from/to a certain rate of speed (specified by the beams) over the specified duration.

- Highest possible note

Play notes somewhat quickly but unevenly and with rubato, a piacere.
$\boldsymbol{\operatorname { p p }}-\boldsymbol{p}$ Fluctuate freely between within given dynamic range

- Sustain pitch until termination of the extender
- Sustain activity (defined by boxed contents and text instructions) until termination of the extender


## Wind Instruments

F Fluttertongue

Piano
Ped. sustain pedal
Sos. Ped. sostenuto pedal
N.B.: player must be equipped with a triangle beater

## Cello

Beginning on page 35 ( m .109 ) the cellist is given an extended accompanied solo in the extreme high register of the instrument, a passage inspired by the stratospheric writing in Jonathan Harvey's Curve with Plateaux for solo cello.

Many of the pitches will be off the fingerboard and the left hand will be stopping pitches in the ordinary bowing position. Consequently, the player must prepare his or her entrance ( m .109 ) by wiping the rosin off the strings. The bowing position will inevitably move closer to the bridge, but as the music descends in register the player is expected to gradually return to the ordinary bowing position.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I would like to sincerely thank Drs. Mobberley, Chen, and Rudy for their invaluable teaching and mentorship, but more importantly for the kindness and support I was shown during extended periods of illness. Without this I surely would not have had the fortitude and confidence to persevere. Thank you for your patience while I carefully completed this work.

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Mom and Dad - thank you for a lifetime of love and support in everything I've ever done. My work is possible because of you. Sarah - I thank you for your love in the past, present, and future.

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10
11
12
13
*Through m. 26, rhythms need not be of pinpoint precision.
** A set of toms may replace the bongos/congas. Either way, the drums should be graduated high to low.





















Archistrategos
"Who Is Like God?"


98
The duration of this system should depend in part on the reverberation time in the performance space. The longer the reverberation time, the longer the conductor should wait before cueing the next system. All in all, the duration should be chosen based on what feels correct during the performance, with the intention of establishing a quiet, meditative sound world.




Genty yrag the triangle beater across the groups of strings for these two pitches in straight, circular, and figure-8 patterns.



In the event prayer bowls are not available at these pitches, chimes may be substituted,
102
performed with soft vibraphone mallets in order to attenuate the overtones.





* Performer should use sustain pedal at own discretion through m . 119. Individual notes should be crystalline but the overall effect slightly blurred. A bit of finger-pedaling may be appropriate.














This space intentionally left blank to preserve the proportional score layout



























## VITA

Timothy Roy was born January 17, 1987, in Nederland, Texas. He graduated salutatorian from Nederland High School in 2005 and was awarded the President's Scholarship at Southern Methodist University in Dallas. There he studied music composition with Kevin Hanlon and Simon Sargon, composition and electroacoustic music with Martin Sweidel, piano with Alfred Mouledous, and conducting with Paul Phillips. He was awarded the Theodore Presser Award and graduated Summa Cum Laude. Major composition projects included a sound installation commissioned to commemorate the $100^{\text {th }}$ anniversary of the Neiman Marcus Corporation and Missa SMU for soprano and tenor soloists, choir, and large mixed ensemble, cocommissioned by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Dallas and SMU Catholic Campus Ministry in celebration of the ministry's $75^{\text {th }}$ year.

In 2009, Mr. Roy began a master's degree in composition at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. His work has been presented nationally and internationally, with performances at the Bowling Green New Music Festival, Toronto Electroacoustic Symposium, Denison University's "Tutti" New Music Festival, Studio 300 Digital Art \& Music Festival, the Center of Cypriot Composers, Society for Electro-Acoustic Music in the United States (SEAMUS), radioCona (Slovenia), Heidelberg University's New Music Festival, Electronic Music Midwest, Helianthus Ensemble (University of Kansas), Opensound (Boston), the Electronic Music Studios Concert Series at the

University of Iowa, Stacey Barelos’ Missouri Piano Project, and the International Electroacoustic Music Festival of Chile, "Ai-maako."

He has won First Prize in the International Competition of Electroacoustic and Visual Music ("Prix Destellos"), First Prize in the $9^{\text {th }}$ International MusicacousticaBeijing Composition Competition, and been named a Finalist in the Ninth Edition of the International Composition Competition "Città di Udine."

Mr. Roy has served as Adjunct Instructor of Music Theory and Technology at MidAmerica Nazarene University and is Director of Music at Holy Family Catholic Church in Eudora, Kansas.

