# CONCERTINO FOR JAZZ CLARINET, ELECTRIC VIOLA AND SYMPHONIC ORCHESTRA 

## THESIS

Presented to the Graduate Council of the University of North Texas in Partial

Fulfillment of the Requirements

For the Degree of

MASTER OF MUSIC

By

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Concertino for Jazz Clarinet. Electric Viola and Symphonic Orchestra is a composition of approximately fifteen minutes' duration, and is scored for two flutes (second doubling piccolo). two oboes, two Bb clarinets, two bassoons, four F - horns, two Bb trumpets, three trombones (third bass), two percussionists, solo Bb olarinet, solo electric viola and strings. The piece is divided into two movements; Andante and Canon. Concepts derived from jazz musio are employed in, for example, harmony and improvisation in the solo parts, whereas the orchestration is mainly traditional. The piece is written for two great Swedish instrumentalists; Putte Wickman, clarinet, and Henrik Frendin, viola. Stylistically this work is difficult in the orchestral parts, since it uses concepts from two different musical styles, jazz and classical. Influences originate from such wide-ranging composers as Mozart, Stravinsky, Shostakovich and Chiok Corea.

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## INTRODUCTION

Concertino for jazz clarinet and electric viola is written for, and dedicated to, two excellent performers whom I know both personally and musically; Putte Wickman, clarinet, and Henrik Frendin, viola. Putte has played jazz professionally for over forty years and is recognized as one of Sweden's finest jazz musicians. Henrik, a close friend of mine, is on a leave of absence from his duty as assistant leader of the violas of the Danish Radio Symphony orohestra. He is one among ten musical groups and individuals which have received a three year grant from the Swedish government called "Promotion $90^{\prime \prime}$ intended for young performers to develop their art. Henrik is also an experienced jazz musician.

My intention with this piece is to relate different musical styles, especially jazz and "concert" music which are the two fields in which I am educated. This is something that I have been attempting in many of my pieces. The solo parts include jazz improvisation. The harmonic and melodic language is most closely related to jazz, especially jazz from the 1960's and onwards. The orchestration is basically traditional. I use the type of orchestration that fits my purpose of trying to relate to jazz. It also goes hand in hand with my wish to write a very conorete and extroverted kind of music.

One most difficult and important aspeot of trying to relate different musioal styles, and maybe in all composition, is form. The short forms of jazz are not at all suitable to my intentions for an extended work. Sonata, Rondo and the Classical concerto are forms that I feel will lend themselves to my purposes, of course developed and changed according to my needs. The relationship between rhythm and orchestration is interesting in this music. It is difficult to use jazz related rhythms with a symphony orchestra, which makes it a hard task trying to create this type of piece. According to Don Sebesky, author of 'The Contemporary Arranger', "many attempts have been made to make a large string-ensemble "swing" but none has ever succeeded". In my opinion too, it is probably impossible to make a symphony orchestra "swing" and that is certainly not my intention. I try to use the instruments in an indigenous manner, and still give a jazz flavor to the musio. That is mostly by use of aacented offbeats, hemiolas and a steady rhythmic pulse with short note values always present as opposed to merely a melodic pulse, in addition to the "jazzy" melodic lines already inherent. Classically trained musicians have difficulty playing in "jazz time" so the music has to be scored in a way that will help them. This means that this steady rhythmic pulse has to be present at all times when "jazz time" is desired.

## FIRST MOVEMENT

i. FORM

The main material used is divided into an $A$ and $B$ section:
( 1 = seotion, (c*) $=$ tonal oenter )
|intro | $A$ (C\#)| $A$ (C\#) $\mid B$ (G\#)| $B(A) \mid$ Trans.| $C=A+A(E b)+B(B b) \mid$

| $1-4$ | $5-21$ | $22-38$ | $39-46$ | $47-53$ | $54-63$ | $64-111$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |

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| D (Gb)| Reoap.B (Ab) | Trans. | A (C*) | Trans. | Coda= m| Fine
112-127 128-134 135-147 148-162 163-169 170-180
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Figure 1 - Overview of form of first movement.

The A section (Fig.2), lasting 16 measures, is repeated and so is the B section (Fig.3), as might be found in the double exposition of a classical concerto.


Figure 2 - A section starting in measure 5


Figure 3 - B section starting in measure 39

The clarinet, which is the featured solo instrument in this movement, states the main theme starting in measure 5 (See Fig.2), which is then repeated by the orchestra in measure 22 . The tonal oenter relationship between the $A$ and $B$ seotion is that of toniodominant. The key centers are $C \#$ for the $A$ section, and the $B$ section is a pedal point on $G \#$. $C$, the development section, starting in measure 64, is in the form of an improvisation by the clarinet. The first part of this section has the same harmonic basis as the $A$ section but in the key of $E b, V$ of $V$, and the latter half corresponding to the $B$ section is in the key of $\mathrm{Bb}, \mathrm{V}$ of $I I$. The viola introduces new material in the $D$ section ( m . 112) (Fig.4), whioh moves into the key of the subdominant.


Figure 4 - Beginning of $D$ section (m. 112)

The harmonic material of the first half of this section is a mirror of the first part of $A$. The reoapitulation ( $m$. 128) starts with
material oorresponding to the $B$ seotion in the initial key, and then moves into a repetition of the A section also in its initial key. The short Coda (m. 170) built on material from the D section is again in the subdominant with a cadence of dominant-tonic.

## ii. THEMATIC MATERIAL

The thematic material of the A section is very much influenced by its harmonic basis. Since the harmonio progression in the beginning consists of chords alternating with the interval of an augmented second, there is a significant color shift every other measure, which also effects the melodic contour, or vice versa. From measure 13 the melody is more flowing, first outlining a sequence of a diminished triad (Fig.5). In measure 17 the melody outlines an A major triad where the harmonic basis is a A/C\#, the C\# melody note then becomes a Db enharmonically in the next measure, where the harmonio basis is a $\mathrm{Bb} / \mathrm{C}$, a chord with more tension than the previous one (Fig.6).


Figure 5 - Melodic outline of diminished triad in A section


Figure 6-Chord movement of measures 17-18
improvisatory passages with the viola. After this they move into a homophonio two-part seotion with aocompaniment (m. 293) (Fig.17), with the clarinet on the top voice.


Figure 17 - Viola and clarinet, middle of second movement

This section crescendos and reaches a climax just before a modulation to $B$ with a false cadence (m. 313). This section, with the viola solo plus development is built on the A, B form (not A, $B, A)$. The music is still ascending after this smaller peak, with strings playing fast moving variations upon the main theme played by brass (m. 313) (Fig. 18).


Figure 18 - string variations with horns playing theme of A section

In the next $B$ section (m. 326), the winds (both woodwinds and brass) play a four-note thickened line in a jazz manner (See Fig. 22 below), until they reach a pedal point still on $B$ ( $m$, 334). Building up to the loud reoapitulation (m. 355) the two soloists alternate

The latter half of the A section (from measure 13) has a more flowing harmony with chords changing more frequently. Here some use of "hybrid"-ohords are made, for example Bbmin/C (see Fig. 6).

In the B-section (Fig. 3), which is a pedal point on G\#, ascending triads B-mi, C\#-mi,D,G are used, then descending on F\#, C\#, B, A, G, all on the G\# pedal. The D-section (m, 112) inverts the chord progression from the beginning of the A section, alternating chords a third apart but this time in ascending major thirds with minor ninth chords alternating with dominant ninth-thirteenth-chords. This occurs in the first 8 bars of the D section and after this, the progression of the latter part of $A$ is used. In the transition between the $B$ and the $A$ sections of the recapitulation (m. 113), the G\# pedal reappears with alternating $G$ and Bb triads on top, leading to a solo cadenza in between. In the transition between the last A section and the Coda (m. 163), an F to a $D$ to a C\# dominant-type chord is used, all held together by a $B$ on top. The Coda ( m .170 ) uses the same harmonic material as the $D$ section, and the movement ends with a cadence to the tonic $C \#$ chord in an unusual voicing (Fig.9).


Figure 9 - Voicing of last chord, first movement

SECOND MOVEMENT
i. FORM

The second movement is a Canon with a pentatonic blues flavor in a C-mixolydian mode (Fig.10).


Figure 10 - C-mixolydian mode used in second movement
It too uses an $A, B, A$ form for its main thematic material (Fig.11).
( $A=$ section, $(C)=$ tomal center)

181-184 185-193 194-202 203-214 215-226 227-234 235-248
|Cadence| $C=\boldsymbol{A}+B(F)|D=A+B(F)| E m+B(B) \mid$ Trans. (B) |
249-254 255-285 286-312 313-334 335-354
|Recap. A (C)| B (C) | Pedal. (E) | Pedel. (Ab) | Coda (C) | Fine
355-364 365-375 376-383 384-389 390-406
Figure 11 - Overview of form of second movement

In the first statement of $A$ in measure 185 (Fig.12) the second (Canon) part starts one and a half measures later (in 4/4) (Fig.13).


Figure 12 - Theme of A seation, second movement (mm. 185-193)


Figure 13 - Canon part entrance in the A section of second movement

In the B-section (Fig.14) the canonic part enters only a half measure after the first part (Fig.15).


Figure 14 - Theme of B-seation of seaond movement (mm. 194-202)


Figure 15 - Canon entrance in the $B$ section (m. 194)

When the A section re-enters it is as a canon in four voices (Fig.16).


Figure 16 - Canon of A section, second movement

Just as the first movement, this movement also uses double exposition but in reverse order. In this movement the orchestra starts and is then followed by the soloists. When the soloists enter they have modulated to F\#- mixolydian (m. 215). The first four bars of the A section are repeated with the viola starting followed by the clarinet. At B (m. 227) they state the canon at the unison at a distance of one and a half measure. The last A section (m. 235) of the exposition is extended and modulates to $F$. Here the viola, whioh is the featured instrument of this movement, takes over with a short solo cadenza (mm. 249-254). Then, with the accompaniment of oboes, clarinets, bassoons, timpani and marimba it starts to develop a short motive from the A theme ( $m, 255$ ). This is intensified, and there is a modulation to the key of $A b$ in measure 285 where the clarinet enters and alternates short
improvisatory passages with the viola. After this they move into a homophonio two-part seotion with accompaniment (m. 293) (Fig.17), with the olarinet on the top voice.


Figure 17 - Viola and clarinet, middle of second movement

This section crescendos and reaches a climax just before a modulation to $B$ with a false cadence (m. 313). This section, with the viola solo plus development is built on the A, B form (not A, B, A). The musio is still ascending after this smaller peak, with strings playing fast moving variations upon the main theme played by brass (m. 313) (Fig.18).


Figure 18 - string variations with horns playing theme of A section

In the next $B$ section ( $m$, 326), the winds (both woodwinds and brass) play a four-note thickened line in a jazz manner (See Fig. 22 below), untill they reach a pedal point still on $B$ ( $m$. 334). Building up to the loud recapitulation ( m .355 ) the two soloists alternate
melodically with low strings and trombones. On the cadence back to the tonic $C$ the brass play dissonant rhythmisized chords to a short "break" for high strings and woodwinds (m, 350).

The recapitulation consists of an $A$ and a $B$ section leading to a pedal on $E$, on which the beginning of the $A$ is played with triple note values ( $m$. 376). The pedal underneath changes to Ab (m, 384) and then to a seation where the strings play variations of the first part of A in five ootaves (m. 390). The piece ends with the same type of cadence as was found in the first movement, where the two soloists have a chance to appear together one last time. The last note is a unison $C$.
ii. THEMATIC MATERIAL

The thematic material of the first half of the A section (see Fig.12), is based on a pentatonic scale with the following pitches: $C, D, F, G$, and $B b$. The most significant melodic feature is the initial minor seventh interval (Fig,19).


Figure 19 - Melodic minor seventh interval at beginning of A section

The motive in the next measure (m. 116) is further developed later in the $C$ section, by the viola (Fig. 20).


Figure 20 - Motive from A section, further developed in C section

The last two measures (m. 192 - 193) of the A seotion include two melodio tritone intervals, easily recognizable (Fig.21).


Figure 21 - Melodic tritones in A section of second movment

The latter half of this section features a rising melodic sequence, displaced rhythmically the second time. The B section (see Fig. 14 above) is more flowing rhythmically, and has a greater intervalic span, that of a major ninth, exluding the first anacrusis note. The two most significant melodio features are the major sixth leap in measure 194, and the "bluesy" flavor of measures 200-201, partly due to the tritone. There is also a reference to the $A$ section in measure 198, introducing the minor seventh interval again.

## iii. HARMONY

The harmonic basis for this movement is modal. The first chord to appear is a pedal tonic $C$ ninth-suspended-fourth on the second $A$ of the first exposition (Fig.22),


Figure 22 - Tonio $C$ ninth-suspended-fourth-chord of second movement

The first chord progression to appear is on the second exposition, in the key of $\mathrm{F} \#(\mathrm{~m}, 215)$. This begins with parallel dominant suspended ninth-chords; F\#, C\#, B and C\#, then leads to a less modal harmony using the cycle of fifths and chromatic root movement. The following $B$ section (mm. 227-234), reverses the harmony by having the "modal chords" in the middle. The transition to the next seotion, starting in measure 246-248, antioipates the next tonic $F$. In this section, $C$, only the roots and fifths of the chords of the chord progression of the A section are accompanying the viola solo. The same chord progression is employed throughout, but many times it is only implied. A different use can be seen in the last $B$ section starting in measure 326 before landing on the $B$ pedal (m. 334) that is leading back to the tonic (m. 335). Here the brass, doubled in octaves with the woodwinds, are used in a teohnique that ie normally found in advanoed "sax soli" in big-band masic (Fig.23).


Figure 23 - Thickened line scoring in trumpets and trombones, doubled at the octave by woodwinds (m, 326)

This involves thiokening the melodic line to four notes plus doubled octave. For better voice-leading and more interesting harmony, some of the chord tones of the melody line are treated as passing tones, and therefore passing ohords are used to harmonize them (Fig.24).


Figure 24 - Passing chord harmonization within thickened line technique

Non-functional chords are employed for the sake of contrast and voice-leading (Fig.25). Most of the time this means chords where several voices move chromatically into the next chord.


Figure 25 - Non-functional chords within thickened line technique At the cadence (m. 347) leading back to the recapitulation, I use a G-chord over Db with an added Bb (sharp ninth), going to a Db 7 over $G$ with added $E b$ (ninth) leading to $G$ ninth-sharp-eleven-chord and then to the tonio (Fig.26).


Figure 26 - Chords cadencing back to recapitulation of second movement (mm. 347 -349)

The last ghord of the piece (Fig.27) has a dominant function leading to the unison ending.


Figure 27 - Voicing of last chord of second movement

## CHAPTER III

TIMBRE AND ORCHESTRATION

The most unusual use of instruments in this piece is the use of improvisation in the solo parts. In most of the places where improvisation oocurs, the chord upon which the player is going to improvise needs to be heard. The performers, whom the piece is written for, are more interested in harmonic improvisation than free improvisation, which makes it necessary to supply them with a harmonic background. In the beginning of the $C$ section of the first movement, starting in measure 64, the clarinet is improvising over an arpeggiated chord in trombones and horns. In measures 143-147 of the first movement there are four oadenzas where the soloists improvise two times each alone, and in the last one also together. Here they can either improvise on the previous chord or more freely. In measures 285-292 of the second movement the soloist alternate improvisations two measures each at a time. On the two pedal points at the end of the second movement (min. 376 - 388) the soloists again alternate improvisations, this time overlapping. In measures 390 397 "screams" and "glissandos" are written in the solo parts, which will result in improvised glissandos and fast ascending runs in the viola and descending lip slurs and glissandos in the clarinet. But the general use of instruments is basically traditional, as mentioned earlier. This means many unison and octave doublings are employed, since the musio is not very contrapuntal. The aim is not to use the instruments for their colors primarily. The color aspect
mostly used, is, for example, a whole unison seotion, or strings in five octaves ( $m, 390$ ); brass in four voices doubled at the ootave with woodwinds (m, 326) and whole orchestra unisons (m. 346). Occasionally different colors are used for every voice in a chord (mm.74-75). Frequently different melody lines are in different sections. Most of the classical doublings are employed: flutes and violins $I$, bassoons with cellos and basses, for example. Chords are generally scored in a traditional manner although the voicings might be unusual. In woodwind chords an interlocking scoring of oboes and clarinets is favored. Many times the bass trombone assumes a bass function. Pizzicati are used very often, especially in cellos and basses.

## CONCLUSION

Concertino for Jazz Clarinet, Electric Yiola and Symphonic Orchestra is an attempt to oreate an unusual piece, using mostly traditional techniques but employing amplification in the solo parts. That is one of the most important aspects of the piece because it permits a very different dynamic scoring for the orchestra. This also allows the soloists to play without too much effort and still be heard. As previously mentioned the teohniques used are borrowed from different musical styles; the harmonic language from jazz, the orchestration is basically classical or traditional, and the form is derived from both styles.

The piece is difficult to perform from a stylistio point of view. That is why I composed it for carefully selected soloists. As mentioned earlier the orchestral parts will be difficult to perform because most orchestral players do not have any background in jazz. I try to bridge this with awareness of stylistic concepts, since I have a background in both musical styles.

What I want to achieve with the piece is communication, that is communication with an audience. I like to work on a concrete level rather than an abstract, which explains the choices of styles and techniques used. When I composed the piece I repeatedly stepped aside to obtain a different perspective of the piece. In my opinion it is important as a composer to also have the perspective of a listener. I hope the result is both enjoyable and interesting.

## INSTRUMENTATION

2 Flutes (2nd doubling Picoolo)
2 Oboes
2 Bb Clarinets
2 Bassoons
4 F Horns
2 Bb Trumpets
3 Trombones (3rd Bass Trombone)
Percussion I
Timpani, Triangle, Xylophone, Glockenspiel,
Wind chimes
Percussion II
Cymbal, Glockenspiel, Marimba, Snare drum, Bass drum
solo Bb Clarinet (amplified)
solo electric (amplified) Viola

Strings

Duration: 0. 15 minutes
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