2004

Symphony No.1 - a Symphony of the Christ

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Symphony No. 1 – A Symphony of the Christ

A Thesis

Submitted to the Graduate Faculty of the
Louisiana State University and
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in

The School of Music

by
James White Hellums, III
B.C.M., Louisiana College, 1991
M.C.M.,
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Finally, I give all honor and praise to my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, for giving me strength, wisdom, and clarity of vision.
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ABSTRACT

*Symphony No. 1- A Symphony of the Christ* is, in a general sense, a programmatic orchestral work recounting the life of Christ. This is not to say that every musical device or motive represents something explicitly, rather that the music of each movement suggests the overall mood and feeling of its subject matter. The first movement, subtitled “Christ our God to earth descendeth,” corresponds to Christ’s birth. The second movement, subtitled “Dwelt among men, our example is He,” concerns His life and ministry. The third movement, representing His suffering and crucifixion, is subtitled “See, from His head, His hands, His feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down.” The fourth movement, subtitled “Christ is risen! He meets our eyes: Savior, teach us so to rise,” corresponds to His resurrection. All of these subtitles were selected from hymnody.

The work contains both traditional as well as modern compositional devices. Such techniques as planing, parallelism, unresolved dissonance, abrupt metrical shifts, and cluster chords are employed. Juxtaposed with these modern devices are traditional hymn tunes, which help to evoke the particular mood of the respective movements.
INSTRUMENTATION

Flute (1,2)
Oboe (1,2)
Clarinet in Bb (1,2)
Bass Clarinet (1) (octavo basso)
Bassoon (1,2)
Horn in F (1,2)
Horn in F (3,4)
Trumpet in Bb (1,2)
Trombone (1,2)
Tuba (1)
Percussion (1)
Violin 1
Violin 2
Viola
Cello
Contrabass
Symphony No. 1 - A Symphony of the Christ

I. "Christ our God to earth descendeth ..."

Jay Hellums

(Score in C)
Allegro

Fl. 1,2
Ob. 1,2
Bb Cl. 1,2
B.Cl.
Bsn. 1,2
Hn. 1,2
Hn. 3,4
Bb Tpt. 1,2
Tbn. 1,2
Tba.
Perc.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.
Cb.
Fl. 1,2
Ob. 1,2
Bb Cl. 1,2
B.Cl.
Bsn. 1,2
Hn. 1,2
Hn. 3,4
Bb Tpt. 1,2
Tbn. 1,2
Tba.
Perc.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Ch.
Suspended cymbal roll - soft mallet
Cymbal crash - let ring
II. "Dwelt among men, my example is He ... "

Flute 1,2

Oboe 1,2

Clarinet in Bb 1,2

Bass Clarinet

Bassoon 1,2

Horn in F 1,2

Horn in F 3,4

Trumpet in Bb 1,2

Trombone 1,2

Tuba

Percussion

Violin 1

Violin 2

Viola

Cello

Contrabass

8vb throughout
simile

Cymbal crash (let ring)
Suspended cymbal roll - soft mallet
III. "See, from His head, His hands, His feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down..."

- Flute 1,2
- Oboe 1,2
- Clarinet in Bb 1,2
- Bass Clarinet
- Bassoon 1,2
- Horn in F 1,2
- Horn in F 3,4
- Trumpet in Bb 1,2
- Trombone 1,2
- Tuba
- Suspended cymbal - soft mallet
- Percussion
- Violin 1
- Violin 2
- Viola
- Cello
- Contrabass
Suspended cymbal roll - soft mallet
Suspended cymbal roll - soft mallet
Slower

Fl. 1,2

Ob. 1,2

Bb Cl. 1,2

Bb Cl.

Bsn. 1,2

Hn. 1,2

Hn. 3,4

Bb Tpt. 1,2

Tbn. 1,2

Tba.

Perc.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.
Cymbal crash - let ring
IV. "Christ is risen! He meets our eyes: Savior, teach us so to rise ..."
Suspended cymbal roll - soft mallet
VITA

James White Hellums, III earned a Bachelor of Church Music from Louisiana College in 1991 and a Master of Church Music from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary in 1993.

As of this writing, he is the Minister of Music at First Baptist Church of Westlake, Louisiana.