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Symphony No.1 - a Symphony of the Christ

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Symphony No. 1 – A Symphony of the Christ

A Thesis

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in

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by
James White Hellums, III
B.C.M., Louisiana College, 1991
M.C.M.,
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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
Strike cymbal with soft mallet (let ring)
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

pizz.
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.

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..."
Suspended cymbal roll - soft mallet
Cymbal crash - let ring
Cymbal crash  Cymbal choke
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.