



The Acquisition

By Daniel J. Armistead

WATERMARK

Program Notes

The Acquisition is a single movement brass choir piece composed during the fall of 2016. Showcasing the versatility of brass instruments, the piece encompasses a variety of brief phrases each geared to value flexibility. Effects including the use of muted trumpets, piccolo trumpet, and flugelhorn are used as coloring effects throughout the piece and provide an appeal to the listener and a diversity in sound. Additionally, difficult techniques such as woodwind-like runs and double tonguing, in combination with constant rhythmic changes, keeps the piece moving forward and interesting throughout.

The piece itself is about a search for identity. The process by which one acquires his sense of individuality is strictly represented in the 3 main sections of this piece: 1) Currently knowing who you *think* you are, 2) Not knowing who you are, where you are going, or what you are going to do next, and 3) Becoming comfortable with oneself, and finally acquiring you own sense of uniqueness and self-distinction in the world. This transformative phenomenon is primarily represented rhythmically through the ambiguity/syncopations in melodic and harmonic motifs. Throughout the piece, players are often playing in 2 different interpretations of a meters at the same time, resulting in syncopations such as $\frac{8}{8}$ being $\frac{4}{4}$ and $\frac{12}{8}$ being $\frac{6}{4}$ (or vice versa). These ambiguities in interpretation progress throughout the piece, with the middle section being quite uneasy in terms of subdivisions and material, as performers play in 2 completely different time signatures at the same time.

Motifs are augmented as well through the metric changes with the opening trumpet motif returning several times through the piece, and the euphonium melody (originally heard in m.54) returning as a slow horn solo in m.136. As the tempo settles in the 3rd section, a new motif is introduced solidifying this new-found sense of self. However, the beginning motif is also quoted subliminally here (seen in m.144 by the tenor trombone) and is not forgotten, representing that people do not change who they once were, but rather continually grow into something new over time.

The Acquisition

Movement 1

Daniel J. Armistead
(2016)

Energetic, ♩=140

The musical score is arranged for a brass section with the following parts from top to bottom: Piccolo Trumpet, Trumpet 1, Trumpet 2 / Flugelhorn, Horn 1, Horn 2, Euphonium, Tenor Trombone, Bass Trombone, and Tuba. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 12/8. The tempo is marked 'Energetic, ♩=140'. The score is divided into measures by vertical bar lines, with measure numbers 12, 13, 14, 15, and 16 indicated at the top of the staves. The Piccolo Trumpet part is mostly rests. The Trumpet 1 part begins with a melodic line in measure 12, marked *mp*. The Trumpet 2 / Flugelhorn part has rests until measure 14, then enters with a melodic line. The Horn 1 and Horn 2 parts are mostly rests. The Euphonium part has rests until measure 14, then enters with a melodic line, marked *mp*. The Tenor Trombone, Bass Trombone, and Tuba parts are mostly rests.

WATERMARK

Musical score for brass instruments. The score is written for Picc. Tpt., Tpt. 1, Tpt. 2, Hn. 1, Hn. 2, Euph., T. Tbn., B. Tbn., and Tba. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 12/8 with a 6/4 cut time indicated. The score begins at measure 8 and continues through measure 11. Dynamics include *mf*, *mp*, and *mp*. A large red watermark 'WATERMARK' is overlaid diagonally across the page.

13

Picc. Tpt.

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Euph.

T. Tbn.

B. Tbn.

Tba.

The image shows a page of a musical score for a brass ensemble. The score is written for eight parts: Piccolo Trumpet (Picc. Tpt.), Trumpet 1 (Tpt. 1), Trumpet 2 (Tpt. 2), Horn 1 (Hn. 1), Horn 2 (Hn. 2), Euphonium (Euph.), Tenor Trombone (T. Tbn.), Baritone Trombone (B. Tbn.), and Tuba (Tba.). The music is in 3/8 time and begins at measure 13. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, slurs, and dynamic markings. The dynamics range from piano (p) to fortissimo (f). A large, diagonal red watermark with the word 'WATERBURY' is overlaid on the score.

p *mp* *mp* *mf* *f* *f* *f* *f* *f*

Picc. Tpt.

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Euph.

T. Tbn.

B. Tbn.

Tba.

28

28 Whimsical, ♩=♩, ♩=210

Picc. Tpt.

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Euph.

T. Tbn.

B. Tbn.

Tba.

WATERMARK

Picc. Tpt.

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Euph.

T. Tbn.

B. Tbn.

Tba.

mp

mp

mp

mp

p *cresc.*

mp

pp *cresc.*

pp *cresc.*

45

Picc. Tpt.

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Euph.

T. Tbn.

B. Tbn.

Tba.

f *fp*

f *fp*

f *fp*

f

f

mf *f* *mf* *mf*