

Todd Tarantino

Generations



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(1999 - 2000)

Instrumentation

2 Flutes (1 doubling Piccolo)
2 Oboes (1 doubling English Horn)
2 Clarinets in Bb (1 doubling Bass Clarinet)
2 Bassoons (1 doubling Contrabassoon)

2 Horns in F
2 Trumpets in Bb
2 Trombones (Alto, Bass)
Tuba

Piano

2 Percussion: Vibraphone
Glockenspiel, Tam-Tam,
Gong

Violins 1 (at least 6)
Violins 2 (at least 6)
Violas (at least 6)
'Celli (at least 6)
Contrabasses (at least 4)

Score in C

Customary transpositions for
Piccolo and Bass apply.

Duration: 15 minutes

For More Information
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Program Note

*It is a habit, pilgrimage;
you get into the habit of circles...
being son, then father, still son...*

- Nicholas Delbanco

In the spring of 1996 I had the pleasure of walking Gascony. One night, I found myself sharing drinks with a group of French archeologists at the Roman villa of Seviac, over whose mosaics I would be spending the night. Talk came around to what had entranced me so much about Gascony, and perhaps it was the spirit of the place, or perhaps the company that caused me to reflect on a church I had seen on a hilltop in the village of Flamerens: its walls stood, but its roof and windows were no more. However, after several hundred years of disrepair, it was finally being restored to function again as it had in past times. In my mind, this church stood out from my image of the surrounding countryside, for over Gascony's hills were cycles of being. Towns grew and blossomed and remained and within them generation after generation lived, worked, and passed, only to be replaced by another; the villages seemingly exist through time and through them passes an unceasing procession of fathers and sons, an idea that has forever been linked in my mind with the "Omnis Generaciones" movement of the Bach "Magnificat." Somehow this church had escaped from the cycle of being and fallen into legend, only to be pulled back to reality. As I grow older, and begin to see my grandfather's generation pass, I have often wondered about these cycles and what lays beyond them. That night, after the archaeologists went home, I lit a fire, held a Roman vase and contemplated the stars.

Generations is in one movement of fifteen minute duration. All the musical material is derived from two chords, one of which is the tritone transposition of the other, and from the result of bleeding one chord, through a combined chromatic ascent and descent, into the other.

Todd Tarantino
Brookline, Massachusetts
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Performance Notes

Dashed slurs in mm. 209-246 are used to designate phrasing, rather than breathing or bowing: each note and each chord should be thought of separately.

The final section of the work, following m. 275, should be well balanced. The longer notes act like a cantus firmus and it should seem that with each change, the world shifts, like a prism rotating in space. These long notes should follow the dynamics indicated while the remaining parts should match their volume with the natural rise and fall of the line.

Depending on the context, tenuto markings indicate a slight stress, as in the waves of sound from mm. 157- 208, or a certain weight, like a giant's steps, such as the trumpet in mm. 98-100.

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$\text{♩} = 120-140$

The musical score consists of six systems of music, each with a different instrumentation.

- System 1:** Piccolo, Flute, Oboe, English Horn, Clarinet in Bb, Bass Clarinet, Bassoon, Contrabassoon. The bassoon and contrabassoon parts contain many slurs and grace notes. Dynamics include *mf*, *f*, and *fp*.
- System 2:** Horn 1, Horn 2, Trumpet 1, Trumpet 2, Trombone, Trombone 2, Tuba. The brass instruments play eighth-note patterns. Dynamics include *fp*, *f*, and *ff*. The tuba part ends with a dynamic of *f*.
- System 3:** Piano. The piano part is mostly silent throughout the system.
- System 4:** Percussion 1, Percussion 2. Both percussion parts are silent throughout the system.
- System 5:** Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Cello, Contrabass. The violins play eighth-note patterns. The viola and cello parts contain slurs and grace notes. Dynamics include *mf*, *f*, *detaché*, *mf cresc.*, and *5*.

8

Picc.

Fl.

Ob.

E.H.

Cl.

Bs. Cl.

Bsn.

Cbsn.

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Tpt.

Tpt. 2

Tbu. 1

Tbu. 2

Thba.

Pno.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

Picc.

Fl.

Ob.

E.H.

Cl.

Bs. Cl.

Bsn.

Cbsn.

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Tpt.

Tpt. 2

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tba.

Pno.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Vn. I

Vn. Ib

Vn. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

Cb.

Picc.

Fl.

Ob.

E.H.

Cl.

Bk. Cl.

Bsn.

Cbsn.

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Tpt.

Tpt. 2

Thn. 1

Thn. 2

Tba.

Pno.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Vn. 1

Vn. 1b

Vn. 2

Vla.

Vla. 2

Vc.

Vc. 2

Cb.

Cb. 2

Picc. *mp*

Fl. *mp*

Ob. *mp*

E.H.

Cl. *mp*

Bs. Cl. *mp*

Bsn. *mp*

Cbsn. *mp*

Hn. 1 *mp*

Hn. 2 *mp*

Tpt. *mp*

Tpt. 2 *mp*

Tbn. 1 *mp*

Tbn. 2 *mp*

Tba. *mp*

Pno. (lift hand) *mp*

(Hold pedal until sound dies away)

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Vn. 1 *mp*

Vn. 1b *mp*

Vn. 2

Vn. 2b

Vla. *mp*

Vla. 2 *mp*

Vc. *mp*

Vc. 2 *mp*

Cb. *mp*

Cb. 2 *mp*

Picc.

Fl.

Ob.

E.H.

Cl.

Bs. Cl.

Bsn.

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Tpt.

Tpt. 2

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tba.

Pno.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Vln 1

Vln 2

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

Picc.

Fl.

Ob.

E.H.

Cl.

Bk. Cl.

Bsn.

Cbsn.

Hn.

Hn. 2

Tpt.

Tpt. 2

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tba.

Pno.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Ch.