

Double Concerto for Violin, Clarinet, and Wind Symphony (2003)

Ian Krouse

The *Double Concerto* was jointly commissioned by Walter and Elsa Verdehr and the Michigan State University Wind Symphony. It is freely based upon four movements of the *Missa Pro Defunctis* by the sixteenth-century Franco-Flemish master Pierre De La Rue, and makes extensive use of a variety of techniques. These include 'paraphrase', free variations of a familiar melody called *cantus firmus* (in this technique the Gregorian chant melodies of the Latin Requiem mass); 'parody,' a technique where a composer borrows lines, complete textures, or even entire sections of a predecessor's work; and 'troping,' a technique in which new music is added to a pre-existent composition. With regard to this work, the composer writes:

"Though the idea for this work dates from my graduate school years at the University of Southern California and from my studies with musicologist Gilbert Blount, it took a near tragic incident involving my six-year old daughter Eryn and, shortly thereafter the unexpected passing of my life-long friend Terry Graves, to provide me with the appropriately contemplative frame of mind to dwell upon such a somber subject. Though deeply serious, the work is neither dour nor depressing—at least this was not my intention!—rather, it is offered as a celebration of both the lives of my daughter and that of my dearest friend."

— Ian Krouse

The world premiere of the *Double Concerto* was on February 20, 2004 at the Wharton Center, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan.

Ian Krouse (born 1956, Olney, Maryland) holds a Bachelor of Music degree with Performer's and Composer's Certificates from Indiana University at South Bend, and a Master of Music and Doctorate of Music in composition from the University of Southern California. His principal teachers were James Hopkins, Morten Lauridsen, and Halsey Stevens at USC. Krouse was hailed in *Gramophone* as "one of the most communicative and intriguing young composers on the music scene today." *Soundboard* described his music as "absorbing, brutal, beautiful, and harsh, all at the same time."

Krouse is widely known for his pioneering efforts in the development of a new medium, the guitar quartet, though throughout his career he has written in nearly every genre including opera. He is well known to lovers of guitar music, especially those who follow the Los Angeles Guitar Quartet.

Krouse's works have been performed by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (whose performances of his *Concerto for Bass Clarinet* were broadcast over one thousand times on Public Radio International); the Mexico City and Pasadena Chamber Orchestras; the Ukrainian Radio and Television Orchestra; the Armenian, New Zealand, and Cairo Philharmonic Orchestras; the University of California, Los Angeles and University of Southern California Orchestras; and the American Youth Symphony. Chamber ensemble performances include those by the Aureole Trio, Dinosaur Annex, 20th-Century Consort, Remix, Debussy Trio, Pacific Serenades, Dilijan Ensemble, May Festival Choir, and the Los Angeles Chamber Singers. His works have been commercially recorded, some several times, on the Koch, Delos, Naxos, RCM, Lisaddell, GSP, and GHA labels among others.

Throughout his career, Krouse has received many awards and grants, including an AT&T American Encores Grant (for the second performance of an orchestral work), three opera development grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, two from Meet the Composer, and several from the American Composer's Forum, the Ford and Rockefeller Foundations, and the Atlantic-Richfield Corporation. He has won the BMI Award and the Gaudeamus Festival Prize; he was a semi-finalist in the Kennedy Center Friedheim Awards and a finalist in both the Barlow Competition and the Big Ten Commissioning Project.

Krouse is Distinguished Professor of Music at the University of California, Los Angeles, where he serves, in addition to his teaching responsibilities, as an Associate Dean for Academics for the Herb Alpert School of Music. He resides in West Hills, California.

Additional information is available at www.iankrouse.com.