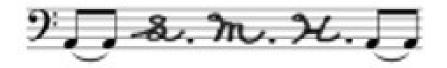
STANLEY M. HOFFMAN

Enigmatic Dance Suite for Vibraphone Solo



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Stanley M. Hoffman

PROGRAM NOTES

I have long wanted to compose music using Olivier Messiaen's "modes of limited transposition. I recently completed a brief dance piece for classical guitar where I first succeed in doing so with limited use of the modes. I figuratively "stretched my legs" as a composer with that piece, paving the way for my using the modes much more extensively in my next project.

Composed for The Vibraphone Project's call for scores, *Enigmatic Dance Suite* picks up where that piece leaves off, employing seven of those modes. The result is a work with intentionally vague tonality in which shifting tone centers form its basis. To increase the sense of vagueness, the two main tone centers are a tritone away from one another (C-G_b).

The forms, tempos, and rhythms in this suite are mostly traditional: Allemande, Courante, Sarabande, and Gigue, with the latter movement being in the more atypical form of a Rondo. The first three movements are fairly serious in mood, whereas the final movement is rather lighthearted. The Gigue also sounds more tonal than the preceding three movements, especially in the C section of the A-B-A-C-A form. The fourth movement also features percussive sounds to emphasize that this is a dance suite, and to impart an additional sense of levity in the finale. A cheeky aspect of the music notation is that I use flats and naturals in movements I–III; sharps appear in movement IV to emphasize the more tonal basis of the music.

This composition is intended for performance by advanced performers. I hope you enjoy *Enigmatic Dance Suite*!

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II. Courante



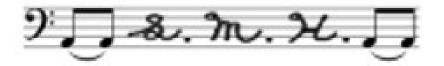




* The desired percussive sound can be made by anything from striking a drum, to foot stamps/taps, to striking the vibraphone outside of its bars; player's choice.



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