

PROGRAM NOTES

A TRIP TO MARS

Throughout the year, I have been working on film scoring demos for my composition portfolio, and when I was offered an opportunity with the trombone ensemble to write music to accompany a short film, I was delighted!

I found this interesting black-and-white film created by Thomas Edison in 1910, and was so interested in the bizarre nature of the film that I decided to use it for this project. In this film, objects float into the air, and I immediately thought, "Glissando!" (slow movements of the slide to bend pitch in wide intervals). This film seemed to be the perfect opportunity to have some fun with trombone glissandi, and was quirky enough at parts to have fun with the typical quirky behavior of the trombone player.

There were parts where I had difficulty writing, because I didn't feel connected with the scene; specifically when the giant alien scientist runs tests on the human scientist. The more I watched this scene, the more out-of-touch I felt with it – I found it just plain strange! After a long bout of composers block, I wrote something I believed sounded equally strange.

To my disappointment as a composer of art music, I made this piece very repetitive. However, I think I need to open up more often to the possibilities of repetition, because in the case of film music it actually seems to make sense. This piece has been an experiment in film scoring, just as the scientist in the film experiments with anti-gravity!

Hope you enjoy it!
Michael Banks

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Season 112, Program 99

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SCHOOL OF MUSIC AND DANCE

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON



Beall Concert Hall
Monday, May 20, 2013, 7 p.m.



Also Sprach Zarathustra

Richard Strauss
(1864-1949)
Arr. Adam Mullen

The Force

John Williams
(b. 1932)
Arr. Ben Robichaux

Star Trek

Michael Giacchino
(b. 1967)
Arr. Adam Mullen

**“Dream is Collapsing” &
“Time” from Inception**

Hans Zimmer
(b. 1957)
Arr. Adam Mullen

INTERMISSION

“Misty Mountains” from, The Hobbit

Howard Shore
(b. 1946)
Arr. Adam Mullen

Game of Thrones

Ramin Djawadi
(b. 1974)
Arr. Adam Mullen

1910 Trip to Mars

Michael Banks
(b. 1974)

TENOR TROMBONES

Seth Arnold
John Church
Ryan Erp
Dan Hartley
Taylor Noah
Megan McMillan
Kyle Raze
Nathan Walyer

BASS TROMBONE

Jacob Rosevear
Marisa Smith
Stephen Young

PERCUSSION

Rachel Harris
Colin Hurowitz

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Jessica Dudman

Adam Mullen is currently pursuing his Master's degree in Euphonium Performance at the University of Oregon School of Music, in the studio of Michael Grose. He received his Bachelor of Music in Music Education from the University of Oregon in 2011. Adam teaches privately to low brass students and community members in the Eugene and Springfield area. When he is not teaching or playing the euphonium, Adam composes and arranges various works of music. He also enjoys watching and listening to Star Trek on a daily basis.