Waves of Lament

Kennedy Kimber-Johnson, The University of Western Ontario

Supervisor: Daniel, Omar, The University of Western Ontario
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Abstract

*Waves of Lament* is a five movement cycle for solo organ with a duration of 23 minutes. This cycle is a reflection of the COVID-19 pandemic. Through its five movements, this work aims to depict the different chapters of life during a global pandemic. *Waves of Lament*, utilizes the sounds of the organ to explore various extra-musical themes from the pandemic. The first movement explores panic and anxiety, the second looks at isolation, and the third movement explores themes of rest and reflection. The fourth movements deals with the massive amount of loss we have all experienced throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Lastly, the finale explores the idea of ‘hazy recollections,’ and how memories float through our consciousness, particularly in our quiet moments.

Keywords

Composition, organ, Canadian Music, cycle, pandemic, COVID-19, solo music
Summary for Lay Audience

*Waves of Lament* is a cycle for solo organ with five movements that reflects on life during the COVID-19 pandemic. A cycle (or song cycle) is group of pieces intended to be performed together. The pieces will usually have a common theme or subject, or tell a story when heard in succession. The pipe organ is a musical instrument that has one or more manuals (or keyboards) played by the hands, and a pedal board played by the feet. This work requires an organ with at least three manuals (or keyboards) to be the most effective. To produce sound on the instrument, pressurized air is forced through pipes of varying size and length. Through the use of the organ’s stops (or registrations), it is able to create a wide variety of timbres, colours and dynamics. *Waves of Lament*, utilizes the sounds of the organ to explore different themes from the pandemic, such as: isolation, panic and loss.
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WAVES OF LAMENT

for solo organ

Kennedy Kimber-Johnson
Waves of Lament

Performance Time - 23:00
I: Outbreak - 3:00
II: Isolation - 3:20
III: Reflection - 5:30
IV: Loss - 4:20
V: Memory - 6:50

This five-movement cycle is a reflection on COVID-19 and living through a global pandemic. Looking back to March 2020, the first movement, “Outbreak,” explores the extra-musical themes of panic and anxiety. The second movement, “Isolation,” reflects on the difficulties of quarantine and separation. “Reflection”, movement three, explores the different sides of rest. Thinking back to the stay-at-home orders I was faced with two realities, enjoying a slower pace of life and feeling helpless. “Loss,” the fourth movement, aims to reflect on the massive amount of loss we have all experienced throughout the COVID-19 pandemic: loss of human life, loss of social interaction, loss of experiences, and loss of a sense of normalcy. The finale, “Memory,” depicts the idea of hazy recollections. This movement reflects on how particularly in our quiet moments, memories often float through our consciousness. With this work, I hope to make a bit more sense of these unprecedented times.

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I. Outbreak

I : Fonds 8' 4' 2', mixture
II : Fonds 8' 4' 2', mixtures,
    reeds 8' 4'
III : Fonds 8' 4' 2', reeds 8'
Pd : Fonds 16' 8' 4', mixture,
    reeds 16' 8'
Manuals and pedals coupled

Allegro con fuoco (jet = 120)

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II. Isolation

II : Flute 8', Soft principal 8'
III : Strings
Pd : soft 16', III/Pd

Lento (\(\dot{\varphi} = 56\))
\(\textit{sostenuto e solenne}\)
Adagietto $\frac{j}{\text{tempo}} = 72$

*legato e espressivo*
I: Principals 8' 4', Flute 8'  
II: Fonds 8' 4', (with oboe)  
III: Fonds 8' (- voix celeste)  
Pd: Principal 16' 8', Flute 16' 8'

Manuals and pedals coupled

Misterioso \( \frac{\dot{z}}{z} = 66 \)
II : Strings, Flute 8' 4'
III : Fonds 8', Voix Celeste, II/III
Pd : Flute 16' 8', II/Pd, III/Pd

Tempo I ($d = 50$)
cantabile

74

III mp

79

83
III : Strings, Voix Celeste
Pd : soft 16', III/Pd

Tempo I
IV. Loss

**Grave (d = 30)**

*dolente*

II

III

3

5

*molto rit.*

*a tempo*
**Tempo I** *legato e espressivo*

**II Hohl Flute 8’**

**III : Strings, Voix Celeste, Flute 8’**

**Pd : Bourdon 16’, III/Pd**
V. Memory

II: Hohl Flute 8'
III: Fonds 8', Flute 4'
Pd: Bourdon 16' 8', III/Pd

Moderato liberamente e expressivo

(II)

mp

A4
Curriculum Vitae

Name: Kennedy Kimber-Johnson

Post-secondary Education and Degrees:
- Western University, London, Ontario, Canada: 2014-2018 B. Mus (Music Composition)

- McGill University, Montreal, Quebec, Canada: 2018-2019 Gr. Dip. in Performance

- Western University, London, Ontario, Canada: 2019-2021 M.Mus (Music Composition)

Honours and Awards:

- The Western Scholarship of Distinction: 2014

- Dr. Sherwood Fox Music Award: 2015, 2016, 2017

- Dean’s Honor List: 2017, 2018

Related Work Experience:
- Graduate Teaching Assistant, Western University: 2019-2021