Amor Fati

Aaron Lee, The University of Western Ontario

Supervisor: David Myska, The University of Western Ontario
A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Master of Music degree in Music
© Aaron Lee 2015

Follow this and additional works at: https://ir.lib.uwo.ca/etd

Part of the Composition Commons

Recommended Citation
https://ir.lib.uwo.ca/etd/2768

This Dissertation/Thesis is brought to you for free and open access by Scholarship@Western. It has been accepted for inclusion in Electronic Thesis and Dissertation Repository by an authorized administrator of Scholarship@Western. For more information, please contact wlswadmin@uwo.ca.
AMOR FATI

(Thesis format: Score)

by

Aaron Lee

Graduate Program in Music

A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Music Composition

The School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies
The University of Western Ontario
London, Ontario, Canada

© Aaron Lee 2015
Abstract

*Amor Fati*, for wind ensemble, is built upon a formal design that divides the work into harmonic regions whose durations are based on approximations of the golden ratio. The harmonies in these regions are orchestrated using techniques inspired by Spectralism as well as the electro-acoustic technique of time-variant harmonic envelopes. *Klangfarben* technique is used to pass sustained harmonies around the ensemble, thereby stretching the duration of individual chords. These harmonies and their progressions are derived from several juxtaposed harmonic series and, at times, resemble the gradually changing triadic progressions characteristic of some examples of Minimalism. Layered with these elements are the conflicting ideas of concord and discord, and their respective beauties. This balance of beauty and ugliness is a central aspect of the meaning of the title, *Amor Fati*. All these elements are synthesized into an idiomatic composition for wind ensemble.

Keywords

Amor Fati, wind ensemble, composition, Canadian music, klangfarben, golden ratio
Acknowledgments

I would like to thank Dr. David Myska for his role as advisor for this thesis and for his invaluable input and guidance throughout the composition process. I would also like to thank Dr. Paul Frehner for acting as second reader for this thesis.
Table of Contents

Abstract...........................................................................................................................................ii
Acknowledgements..........................................................................................................................iii
Table of Contents............................................................................................................................iv
Title Page..........................................................................................................................................v
Nietzsche Quotation...........................................................................................................................vii
Instrumentation...............................................................................................................................viii
Performance Notes..........................................................................................................................viii
Program Notes...............................................................................................................................ix
Score................................................................................................................................................1
Curriculum Vitae..............................................................................................................................31
Amor Fati
for wind ensemble

Aaron Lee
“Ich will immer mehr lernen, das Nothwendige an den Dingen als das Schöne sehen: — so werde ich Einer von Denen sein, welche die Dinge schön machen. Amor fati: das sei von nun an meine Liebe! Ich will keinen Krieg gegen das Hässliche führen. Ich will nicht anklagen, ich will nicht einmal die Ankläger anklagen. Wegsehen sei meine einzige Verneinung! Und, Alles in Allem und Grossen: ich will irgends wann einmal nur noch ein Ja-sagender sein!”

-Nietzsche (from *Die fröhliche Wissenschaft*)

“I want to learn more and more to see as beautiful what is necessary in things; then I shall be one of those who make things beautiful. Amor fati: let that be my love henceforth! I do not want to wage war against what is ugly. I do not want to accuse; I do not even want to accuse those who accuse. Looking away shall be my only negation. And all in all and on the whole: some day I wish to be only a Yes-sayer.”

Translation by Walter Kaufmann, 1967, in *Basic Writings of Nietzsche*
Instrumentation

- 2 piccolos
- 4 flutes
- 2 bassoons
- 1 E-flat clarinet
- 3 B-flat clarinets
- 2 B-flat bass clarinets
- 2 E-flat alto saxophones
- 2 B-flat tenor saxophones
- 1 E-flat baritone saxophones
- piano
- 4 horns in F
- 4 B-flat trumpets
- 3 trombones
- 1 bass trombone
- 2 euphoniums
- 2 tubas
- double bass
- timpani
- percussion - 4 players (marimba, vibraphone, crotales, tubular bells, tam-tam, crash cymbals, suspended cymbal, triangle, bass drum, snare drum)(bass bow needed for tam-tam and crotales)

Performance Notes

This is a transposing score without key signatures. All accidentals within are active for the entire duration of the measure.
Program Notes

Nietzsche’s concept of Amor Fati is to appreciate and love the beauty inherent in all things. Whether things are traditionally viewed as beautiful or ugly is irrelevant to this concept, as it is simply the perspective of the viewer that matters.

My composition, Amor Fati, uses constantly shifting timbres and textures to reinterpret various moments and provide multiple angles by which to appreciate their beauty. Harmonic moments are extended and spread temporally between the various instruments of the ensemble in a search for beauty. In accordance with the concept of Amor Fati, this search itself soon becomes an object of beauty.

In Nietzsche’s writings on the subject, he talks about his goal of achieving this ideal state of mind. Musically, Amor Fati seeks to follow a similar path. Starting off lethargic and sombre, the tone gradually lightens and livens until reaching an energetic, yet orderly, climax. The dénouement that follows is calmed, yet retains the lightness for which the music has been striving.

Amor Fati was completed in spring, 2015, in partial fulfillment of the MMus in Composition program at the University of Western Ontario.
Amor Fati
Amor Fati

With great intensity (♩=156)

Pos. 1

Pos. 2

H. 1

H. 2

H. 3

H. 4

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

E. Cl.

B. Cl. 1

B. Cl. 2

B. Cl. 3

B. Cl. 4

A. Sn. 1

A. Sn. 2

T. Sn. 1

T. Sn. 2

R. Sn.

Pos.

R. Tpt. 1

R. Tpt. 2

He 1

He 2

He 3

He 4

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3

H. Tbn.

Paph. 1

Paph. 2

Timp.

Pos. 1

Pos. 2

Pos. 3

164 165 166 167 168 169 170
Amor Fati

Calm, but with movement \( \left( \frac{\text{d}}{\text{f}}=126 \right) \)

\textit{molto rit.}
# Curriculum Vitae

**Name:** (Joseph) Aaron Lee

**Post-secondary Education and Degrees:**

- University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario, Canada
  - 2013-2015 M.Mus. (Music Composition)

- University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario, Canada
  - 2009-2013 B.Mus.A (Honors)

**Honours and Awards:**

- Western Graduate Research Scholarship

**Related Work Experience:**

- Graduate Teaching Assistant
  - The University of Western Ontario
  - 2013-2015