Cabinet of Curiosities
Concerto for Saxophone Quartet and Orchestra

by

Matthew Aaron Browne

A composition submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Musical Arts (Music Composition) in the University of Michigan 2016

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Written for and dedicated to my good friends of the Donald Sinta Quartet:
Dan Graser, Zach Stern, Joe Girard, and Danny Hawthorne-Foss
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I would like to thank all of the composition teachers with whom I have had the pleasure to study during my years at the University of Michigan: Kristin Kuster, Michael Daugherty, and Evan Chambers. Without their insight I would not be the composer, nor indeed the person that I am today. I’d also like to thank my other amazing teachers during my time here: Mark Clague, Walter Everett, Kevin Korsyn, and many more. Finally, I would like to thank all of the wonderfully talented, generous, and admirable saxophonists with whom I have had the honor to work and befriend over the course of my life: Raleigh Eversole IV, Steven Stowe, Elizabeth Ridsdel, Tim D’Amour, Neal Postma, Tom Myer, Luis Zuñiga, Christian Noon, Donald Sinta, Timothy McAllister, Jonathan Hulting-Cohen, Edward Goodman, Dan Graser, Zach Stern, Joe Girard, Danny Hawthorne-Foss, Lisa Keeney, Andrea Voulgaris, Brendan Kelly, David Foley, and so many more.
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Cabinets of curiosities (known also as Kunstkammern), emerged first in the wealthy and royal homes of the sixteenth century. The cabinets held collections of various wondrous and thought-provoking objects with no obvious categorization or curation. Many of these collections included archaeological relics obtained by explorers during their voyages to the new world (Exotica), impressive and curious works of Art (Artificiosa), technologically advanced mechanical automata (Scientifica), and obscure and exotic specimens from nature (Naturalia). These collections served primarily as a status symbol for the wealthy patrons that owned them, but were also viewed as a kind of proto-museum displaying, in one room, objects once unknown (and sometimes unbelievable) to European audiences at the time. To these visitors, the cabinet was a microcosm of the world.

What strikes me most about these early collections was not only the breadth of objects, but also the haphazard curation and their careless arrangement. To these visitors, the cabinets held objects of decay for acetate based film, which has poetically befallen the reel sitting inside the canister. Although the degradation of the film is strong enough to make any viewing impossible, careful analysis of a handful of individual frames seem to vaguely display the visages of famous actors such as Harrison Ford, John Wayne, and even Marlon Brando – all dressed in colorful and over-the-top superhero costumes. In addition, the composition of each shot was of stellar quality, obviously the work of a master director. People rumored to have been involved in the project range from Steven Spielberg to Martin Scorsese to Frank Zappa to Alfred Hitchcock.

Could this film be our lost parody?
INSTRUMENTATION

Piccolo
Flute 1-2
Oboe 1-2
English Horn
Clarinet in Bb 1-2
Bass Clarinet in Bb (Dbl. Clarinet in Bb 3)
Bassoon 1-2
Contrabassoon
Horn in F 1-4
Trumpet in C 1-3
Trombone 1-2
Trombone 3 (Bass)
Tuba
Timpani (32”, 29”, 26”, 23”)

Percussion 1
- Marimba (4.5 octave)
- Xylophone
- Crotales (Eb6-Ab7)
- Concert Bass Drum (may be shared with Perc. 3)
- Cowbell (mounted)

Percussion 2
- Two Bongos
- Suspended Cymbal
- Glass Wind Chimes
- Brake Drum
- Tam-tam (with bass bow)
- Vibraphone (mounted)
- Tambourine
- Triangle

Percussion 3
- Vibraphone
- Snare Drum
- Concert Bass Drum (may be shared with Perc. 1)
- Five Temple Blocks
- Suspended Cymbal

Harp
Piano

Solo Soprano Saxophone in Bb
Solo Alto Saxophone in Eb
Solo Tenor Saxophone in Bb
Solo Baritone Saxophone in Eb

Violin I
Violin II
Viola
Violoncello
Contrabass

PERFORMANCE NOTE

All trills are to be performed as half-step trills, unless otherwise indicated.

Duration: c. 23 min.
www.matthewbrownecomposer.com
As before, on the 26" timpano
remove harmon mute,
insert straight mute
As before, on the 26" timpano
remove harmon mute,
insert straight mute
I. The Art of Noises

Rigid, like clockwork \( \cdot \cdot \cdot \) = 126
Cabinet of Curiosities - Full Score (Transposed)
Cabinet of Curiosities - Full Score (Transposed)
III. Vinegar Syndrome

Ominous \( \text{=} \) 72

Marimba \( \text{c} \text{c} \text{c} \text{c} \) solo

Tam-tam \( \text{c} \text{c} \text{c} \text{c} \) solo

Vibraphone \( \text{c} \text{c} \text{c} \text{c} \) solo

Ominous \( \text{=} \) 72

Sep. Sax.

Alto Sax.

Ten. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

Vln.

Vla.

Vcb.

Pno.

Sheet music for the instruments mentioned in the text is shown, with sections for marimba, vibraphone, and tam-tam highlighted. The music notation includes various symbols and markings, indicating dynamics, articulations, and instrument techniques. The page is densely packed with musical notation and instructions for performance.
resulting in a dense, chromatic cluster.
Cabinet of Curiosities - Full Score (Transposed)