

***SLALOM***  
Wind Symphony  
2002

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*Commissioned by John P. Lynch and the University of Kansas Wind Ensemble  
Premiered at the University of Kansas, Fall 2002*

DURATION: 9'30"

Piccolo  
4 Flutes (4.dbl picc.)  
3 Oboes  
2 Bassoons  
Contrabassoon  
Clarinet E-flat  
6 Clarinets B-flat  
2 Bass Clarinets B-flat  
2 Saxophones (both on Sopranos and Altos)  
Tenor Saxophone  
Baritone Saxophone

6 Trumpets (B-flat)  
4 Horns (F)  
3 Tenor Trombones  
Bass Trombone  
3 Euphoniums  
3 Tubas

Contrabass  
Timpani  
3 Percussion  
Harp  
Piano/Celesta

Program Note:

***SLALOM*** is a taste of the thrill of downhill skiing. The work is performed at a severe tempo throughout showcasing the orchestra's volatility and endurance. The idea for a piece like this came directly out of a wonderful discovery I made several years ago at Steamboat Springs, Colorado when I embarked on the mountain-base gondola with a cassette player and headphones. At the time I was treating myself to large doses of Shostakovich's Tenth Symphony and Rachmaninoff's *Symphonic Dances*. The exhilaration of barreling down the Rockies with such music pumping into my ears was overwhelming. After a few years of skiing with some of the greatest repertoire it occurred to me that I could customize the experience.

The work is presented as a collection of scenes and events one might come by on the slopes. The score is peppered with phrase-headings for the different sections such as "First Run", "Open Meadow, Champagne Powder", "Straight Down, TUCK" and "On One Ski, Gyrating" among others. In this way *SLALOM* shares its programmatic feature with that of Richard Strauss' *Alpine Symphony*. The similarities end there, however, for *SLALOM* lasts ten

minutes...precisely the amount of time I need to get from Storm Peak (the peak of Mt. Werner, Steamboat Springs) to the mountain base, skiing full throttle.

\*Purchase a recording of **SLALOM** at: <http://www.amazon.com/Redline-Tango-Charles-Ives/dp/B000F1IQE6>