

TRIPLE TROMBONE CONCERTO

3 Trombones – Strings - Percussion
2001

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Commissioned by the Three's Company Trombone Trio, led by John Rutherford, Detroit, MI

Premiered by the Hungarian Radio Orchestra in Budapest, April 2007

Trombones: Csaba Erdei, Robert Káip, Miklos Csáthy

Laszlo Kovacs, conductor

DURATION: 16'10"

3 Solo Trombones (2 Tenors, 1 Bass)

String Orchestra

2 Percussion

Program Note:

TRIPLE TROMBONE CONCERTO (2001) was written at the MacDowell Colony in Peterborough, New Hampshire. The work is set to display the trombone section of the symphony orchestra (two tenor trombones and one bass trombone). All the woodwind instruments have been removed from the orchestra so that there are only strings and percussion to accompany the soloists.

Rutherford's Rag is a slow concert ragtime piece named after the trombone player who commissioned the work. John Rutherford was a good friend of mine back when we were in music school together at the University of Michigan. This rag is a tribute to my friend.

Angela's Waltz is a beautiful, flowing waltz-like work named after one of my loves. There are open sonorities throughout, calling attention to the music of Aaron Copland at times. Just past the center of the piece there is a brutal section of atonality, making way for the harmonic relief which takes us to the conclusion of the movement.

Gallop is a set of cowboy dances and evokes the American wild west in a similar way to the film scores of old western movies. The work also shares a syntax with Aaron Copland's ballets *Billy the Kid* and *Rodeo*. There are no outlaw characters in *Gallop*...instead, the hero is a good man, a free man. He is the proto-typical cowboy moving his way across the mountainous, sun-drenched West—a man who knows the land as the coyotes know the moon.

*Contact the composer for a reference recording of **TRIPLE TROMBONE CONCERTO**