

Andrew Mark Sauerwein

(b. 1963)

Desert Song

for

6 Violins

2 Violas

and

2 Cellos

Duration:

11'55"

2024

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Composed for the 70th Anniversary of the Mississippi Music Teachers Association

Program Note

Desert Song is a musical journey inspired in part by Jacob Rowan's art piece, "Desert," which comes from his series *The Tower and the Desert*. The music evokes the inner experience of a trek across an arid landscape in search of water. An initial image of heat and thirst gives way to a curious path through the stark beauty of a sandy wilderness. The way is bathed in light and heat, gathering intensity and hope hand in hand, until the oasis appears. Thirst is satisfied, rest is at hand, peace is restored, and the desert song's curious strains echo and linger in the mind's ear.

Jacob Rowan is on the faculty in Belhaven University's Art & Design department. Regarding his series, Jacob writes the following parable:

"There is a desert, and in the midst of that desolation stand ambitious men.

"Long ago, Nimrod - a mighty warrior and king of the desert - desired a place as a god. He said to his people, 'Come, let us make a name for ourselves, and let us build a tower with its top in the heavens lest we be dispersed and forgotten.' So they began construction on a spire that would prick the heavens.

"Then the LORD descended in radiant theophany and twisted their tongues in His displeasure. Men who had once been allies were torn apart by the confusion of their languages and dispersed throughout the wasteland. Thus the place was called Babel, and its ruins still lie on the plains of Shinar, populated only by the owls and hyenas.

"Nimrod's nation was scattered, but his vision lingered on, gnawing at the imaginations of generation after generation. Constantly his children roam, splintering according to language and culture, coalescing, and then fracturing again. They build ceaselessly but leave behind only a trail of crumbling monoliths beneath the cold light of the moon.

"After a time, the LORD sent his Son to pave the Way through the desert to the holy city of Zion. He adopted countless descendants of Nimrod and gave them a mighty gift. The very Spirit that had first confused language would now give men one voice and the Word to speak.

"Nimrod's offspring still apply all of their might to building towers of steel and glass. But the children of the Lord live in the sand, making their slow pilgrimage along the Way and singing of Zion. Their chorus is the unified voice of the faithful proclaiming:

"No eye has seen and no mind has conceived the full glory of Zion, but in everything are signs and signifiers."

Find out more about Andy's music at www.AndrewMarkSauerwein.com

Find out more about Jacob's artwork at www.JacobRowanStudios.com

Desert Song

Andrew Mark Sauerwein

Dramatically, Longingly (♩ = c. 60-66)

The score is written for a string ensemble. The instruments are Violin 1, Violin 2, Violin 3, Violin 4, Violin 5, Violin 6, Viola 1, Viola 2, Violoncello 1, and Violoncello 2. The music is in 4/4 time. The tempo/mood is indicated as "Dramatically, Longingly" with a quarter note equal to approximately 60-66 beats per minute. The score includes dynamic markings such as *ff*, *mf*, *dim.*, *p*, and *pp*. There are also articulation markings like accents and *pizz.* (pizzicato). A section labeled "A" is marked at the beginning of the final measure.

Desert Song

12

Vln 1 *p* *mp* *pp* *p* *pp*

Vln 2 *p* *mp* *pp* *p* *pp*

Vln 3 *p* *mp* *pp* *p* *pp*

Vln 4 *p* *mp* *pp* *p* *pp*

Vln 5 *p* *mp* *pp* *p* *pp*

Vln 6 *p* *mp* *pp* *p* *pp*

Vla 1 *p* *pp*

Vla 2 *p* *pp*

Vc. 1 *p* *pp* *p* *pp*

Vc. 2 *mp* *p* *arco*

24

B

Vln 1 *pp* *p* *mf* *pp*

Vln 2 *pp* *p* *mf* *pp*

Vln 3 *pp* *p* *mf* *pp*

Vln 4 *pp* *p* *mf* *pp*

Vln 5 *p* *pp* *cresc.* *mp* *p* *pp*

Vln 6 *pp* *p* *mf* *pp*

Vla 1 *p* *pp* *cresc.* *mp* *p* *pp*

Vla 2 *p* *pp* *cresc.* *mp* *p* *pp*

Vc. 1 *pp* *pizz.* *mp* *arco* *p* *pizz.* *mp* *pp*

Vc. 2 *mp* *p* *mp* *p*

Desert Song

3

[illegible]

Desert Song

56 **D**

Vln 1 *p* *3 mp* *3* *4 mf* *mp* *3 p*

Vln 2 *p* *3 mp* *3* *4 mf* *mp* *3 p*

Vln 3 *p* *3 mp* *3* *4 mf* *mp* *3 p*

Vln 4 *p* *3 mp* *3* *4 mf* *mp* *3 p*

Vln 5 *pp* *cresc.* *mp* *pp* *cresc.*

Vln 6 *p* *3 mp* *3* *4 mf* *mp* *3 p*

Vla 1 *pp* *cresc.* *mp* *pp* *cresc.*

Vla 2 *pp* *cresc.* *mp* *pp* *cresc.*

Vc. 1 *cresc.* *mp* *pp* *cresc.*

Vc. 2 *cresc.* *mp* *arco* *pizz.* *p* *mp*

66 **E**

Vln 1 *mf* *3 p* *pp* *p* *mp*

Vln 2 *mf* *3 p* *pp* *p* *mp*

Vln 3 *mf* *3 p* *pp* *p* *mp*

Vln 4 *mf* *3 p* *pp* *p* *mp*

Vln 5 *mp* *p* *pp* *mp*

Vln 6 *mf* *3 p* *pp* *p* *mp*

Vla 1 *mp* *p* *pp* *mp*

Vla 2 *mp* *p* *pp* *mp*

Vc. 1 *mp* *arco* *pizz.* *p* *pp* *mp* *pp*

Vc. 2 *p* *pp* *mp* *pp*

Desert Song

5

[illegible]

59

Vln 1

Vln 2

Vln 3

Vln 4

Vln 5

Vln 6

Vla 1

Vla 2

Vc. 1

Vc. 2

mf *4* *3* *p* *p* *mf* *3* *p*

mf *4* *3* *p* *p* *mf* *3* *p*

mf *4* *3* *p* *p* *mf* *3* *p*

mf *4* *3* *p* *p* *mf* *3* *p*

mp *p* *mp* *p* *mp* *mf* *mp* *mf* *p*

mf *4* *3* *p* *p* *mf* *3* *p*

mp *p* *mp* *p* *mp* *mf* *mp* *mf* *p*

p *mp* *p* *mf* *mp* *mf* *p*

100

G

Vln 1

Vln 2

Vln 3

Vln 4

Vln 5

Vln 6

Vla 1

Vla 2

Vc. 1

Vc. 2

p *mp* *mf* *f* *mf* *p*

p *mp* *mf* *f* *mf* *p*

p *mp* *mf* *f* *mf* *p*

p *mp* *mf* *f* *mf* *p*

mp *mf* *p*

p *mp* *mf* *f* *mf* *p*

mp *mf* *p*

mp *mf* *p*

mf *mp* *mf* *p* *mp*

mf *mp* *mf* *p* *mp*

110

H

Vln 1

Vln 2

Vln 3

Vln 4

Vln 5

Vln 6

Vla 1

Vla 2

Vc. 1

Vc. 2

mp *mf* *p* *mp* *mf* *p*

mp *mf* *p* *mp* *mf* *p*

mp *mf* *p* *mp* *mf* *p*

mp *mf* *p* *mp* *mf* *p*

mp *mf* *p* *mp* *mf* *p*

mp *mf* *p* *mp* *mf* *p*

mp *mf* *p* *mp* *mf* *p*

mp *mf* *p* *mp* *mf* *p*

mp *mf* *p* *mp* *mf* *p*

mf *mp* *mf* *p* *mp*

mf *mp* *mf* *p* *mp*

Desert Song

7

[illegible][illegible]

139

Vln 1 *f* *mp* *mf* *p* *mf* *f*

Vln 2 *f* *mp* *mf* *p* *mf* *f*

Vln 3 *f* *mp* *mf* *p* *mf* *f*

Vln 4 *f* *mp* *mf* *p* *mf* *f*

Vln 5 *mf* *mp* *mf* *mp* *mf* *mp*

Vln 6 *mf* *p* *mp* *pp* *mp* *mf*

Vla 1 *mf* *mp* *mf* *mp* *mf* *mp*

Vla 2 *mf* *mp* *mf* *mp* *mf* *mp*

Vc. 1 *mf* *mp* *mf* *mp* *mf* *mp*

Vc. 2 *mf* *mp* *mf* *mp* *mf* *mp*

147

J

Vln 1 *mp* *mf* *f* *mp* *f* *mp*

Vln 2 *mp* *mf* *f* *mp* *f* *mp*

Vln 3 *mp* *mf* *f* *mp* *f* *mp*

Vln 4 *mp* *mf* *f* *mp* *f* *mp*

Vln 5 *p* *mf* *f* *mp* *mf* *mp*

Vln 6 *p* *mp* *mf* *mp* *mf* *mp*

Vla 1 *p* *mf* *f* *mp* *mf* *mp*

Vla 2 *mp* *p* *mf* *f* *mp* *mf*

Vc. 1 *mp* *p* *mf* *f* *mp* *mf*

Vc. 2 *mp* *p* *mf* *f* *mp* *mf*

155

Vln 1 *sub. f* *mf* *mp* *mf* *f*

Vln 2 *sub. f* *mf* *mp* *mf* *f*

Vln 3 *sub. f* *mf* *mp* *mf* *f*

Vln 4 *sub. f* *mf* *mp* *mf* *f*

Vln 5 *mf* *mp* *cresc.* *f* *mp*

Vln 6 *sub. mf* *mp* *p* *mp* *mf*

Vla 1 *mf* *mp* *mf* *f* *mp*

Vla 2 *mp* *mf* *mp* *cresc.* *f* *mp*

Vc. 1 *mf* *mp* *mf* *f* *mp*

Vc. 2 *mf* *mp* *mf* *f* *mp*

164

K

Vln 1 *mp* *mf* *f* *sub. f* *f*

Vln 2 *mp* *mf* *f* *sub. f* *f*

Vln 3 *mp* *mf* *f* *sub. f* *f*

Vln 4 *mp* *mf* *f* *sub. f* *f*

Vln 5 *f* *mp* *mf* *mp* *mp*

Vln 6 *p* *mp* *mf* *sub. mf* *f*

Vla 1 *f* *mp* *mf* *mp* *mp*

Vla 2 *f* *mp* *mf* *mp* *mp*

Vc. 1 *mf* *f* *mp* *mf* *mp*

Vc. 2 *mf* *f* *mp* *mf* *mp*

173

Vln 1 *mp* *dim.* *mp* *mf* *f* *ff*

Vln 2 *mp* *dim.* *mp* *mf* *f* *ff*

Vln 3 *mp* *dim.* *mp* *mf* *f* *ff*

Vln 4 *mp* *dim.* *mp* *mf* *f* *ff*

Vln 5 *p* *mp* *mf* *f* *ff*

Vln 6 *p* *dim.* *p* *mp* *mf* *f*

Vla 1 *p* *mp* *mf*

Vla 2 *p* *mp* *mf*

Vc. 1 *mf* *p* *mp* *mf*

Vc. 2 *mf* *p* *mp* *mf*

181

L

Vln 1 *mp* *sfz* *f* *mf* *f* *ff* *fff*

Vln 2 *mp* *sfz* *f* *mf* *f* *ff* *fff*

Vln 3 *mp* *sfz* *f* *mf* *f* *ff* *fff*

Vln 4 *mp* *sfz* *f* *mf* *f* *ff* *fff*

Vln 5 *mp* *p* *mp* *cresc.* *ff* *mf* *dim.*

Vln 6 *p* *sfz* *mf* *mp* *mf* *f* *fff*

Vla 1 *mp* *p* *mp* *cresc.* *ff* *mf* *dim.*

Vla 2 *mp* *p* *mp* *cresc.* *ff* *mf* *dim.*

Vc. 1 *mp* *p* *mp* *cresc.* *ff* *mf* *dim.*

Vc. 2 *mp* *p* *mp* *cresc.* *ff* *mf* *dim.*

190

rall. a tempo

M

Vln 1

Vln 2

Vln 3

Vln 4

Vln 5

Vln 6

Vla 1

Vla 2

Vc. 1

Vc. 2

ppp

pp

mp

p

mf

pp

pizz.

arco

201

Vln 1

Vln 2

Vln 3

Vln 4

Vln 5

Vln 6

Vla 1

Vla 2

Vc. 1

Vc. 2

p

mp

mf

pp

pizz.

arco

211 **N**

Vln 1 *p* *mp* *pp* *p* *mp* *mf* *mf*

Vln 2 *p* *mp* *pp* *p* *mp* *mf* *mf*

Vln 3 *p* *mp* *pp* *p* *mp* *mf* *mf*

Vln 4 *p* *mp* *pp* *p* *mp* *mf* *mf*

Vln 5 *p* *pp* *p* *mp*

Vln 6 *p* *mp* *pp* *pp* *p* *mp* *pp*

Vla 1 *p* *pp* *p* *mp*

Vla 2 *p* *pp* *p* *mp*

Vc. 1 *pp* *pizz.* *p* *mp* *p*

Vc. 2 *p* *arco* *mp* *p*

222 **O**

Vln 1 *mp* *p* *pp* *mp* *pp* *mp* *pp*

Vln 2 *mp* *p* *pp* *mp* *pp* *mp* *pp*

Vln 3 *mp* *p* *pp* *mp* *pp* *mp* *pp*

Vln 4 *mp* *p* *pp* *mp* *pp* *mp* *pp*

Vln 5 *p* *pp* *p* *mp* *pp* *pp* *pp*

Vln 6 *pp* *mp* *pp* *pp* *pp* *pp* *pp*

Vla 1 *p* *pp* *p* *pp* *p* *pp* *p*

Vla 2 *p* *pp* *p* *pp* *p* *pp* *p*

Vc. 1 *pp* *pizz.* *p* *pp* *arco* *pizz.* *p* *arco*

Vc. 2 *pp* *p* *mp* *p* *p*

232

Vln 1 *pp* *mp* 4 3 *pp* *p*

Vln 2 *pp* *p* *pp* *mp* 4 3 *pp* *p*

Vln 3 *pp* *p* *pp* *mp* 4 3 *pp* *p*

Vln 4 *pp* *p* *pp* *mp* 4 3 *pp* *p*

Vln 5 *pp* *p* *pp* *mp* 4 3 *pp* *p*

Vln 6 *pp* *p* *pp* *mp* 4 3 *pp* *p*

Vla 1 *pp* *pp* *pp* *pp*

Vla 2 *pp* *pp* *pp* *pp*

Vc. 1 *pp* *pp* *pp* *pp*

Vc. 2 *pp* *pp* *pp* *pp*

245

[P]

Vln 1 *pp* *cresc.* *p* *dim.* *ppp dim. al niente*

Vln 2 *ppp* *cresc.* *p* *dim.* *ppp dim. al niente*

Vln 3 *pp* *cresc.* *p* *dim.* *ppp dim. al niente*

Vln 4 *ppp* *cresc.* *p* *dim.* *ppp dim. al niente*

Vln 5 *ppp* *cresc.* *p* *dim.* *ppp dim. al niente*

Vln 6 *ppp* *cresc.* *p* *dim.* *ppp dim. al niente*

Vla 1 *ppp* *cresc.* *p* *dim.* *ppp dim. al niente*

Vla 2 *ppp* *cresc.* *p* *dim.* *ppp dim. al niente*

Vc. 1 *ppp* *cresc.* *p* *dim.* *ppp dim. al niente*

Vc. 2 *ppp* *cresc.* *p* *dim.* *ppp dim. al niente*