

Masks: Three Dances for Soprano, Flute, Clarinet, & Horn

Senior Project

In partial fulfillment of the requirements for The Esther G. Maynor Honors College University of North Carolina at Pembroke

By

Samantha Hardison Music 12 Decemeber, 2018

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Lastly, I would like to thank Dhyanesh Sudhakar for working with our crazy schedules and recording the piece.

Abstract

This piece is centered around the idea of musical quotation and features snippets from popular classical and pop music. The piece is in three movements and features Soprano voice, Flute, Clarinet, and Horn. Total playing time of the piece is about 10 minutes.

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A Note about the Composer and Piece

Samantha Hardison is a senior music education student, flutist, and composer at the University of North Carolina at Pembroke. She studies under the direction of Mrs. Sarah Busman, flute, and Dr. Joshua Busman, composition. This piece was written to fulfill the Honors Thesis requirement of the Esther G. Maynor Honors College.

Masks: Three Dances for Soprano, Flute, Clarinet, and Horn in is comprised of three movements; I. Masquerade, II. Rise Against, and III. Romance. Each movement features musical quotation, this can be done through lyrics, harmonic structure, or melodic content. The first movement contains themes from Andrew Lloyd Weber's Masquerade from the Phantom of the Opera and Masquerade by Aram Khachaturian. Rise Against, the second movement, contains themes from several songs from the Pop Punk band. The lyrics were created by using the technique of black out poetry using their song Satellite. The final movement's harmonic structure is taken from Robert Schumann's first Romance for oboe and piano. The lyrics are also tied to Schumann as they are from song 17 in his Dichterliebe.

Reflection

This project is a continuation of the independent study I completed in the Spring of 2018 on musical composition. Through completing the study, I realized that I enjoyed using quotations of other pieces to sort of brain storm my own music. The piece is symbolic of my growth as a composer: the first movement relies heavily on quotation, rather than original composition, the second movement has more original material, and then the last movement is almost solely original material.

The project's title and the title of the piece is *Masks: Three Dances* for Soprano, Flute, Clarinet, & Horn. I chose this title because I thought the idea of masks correlated to using musical quotations in the work, each movement hides behind a mask, so to speak. To create my senior project, I used different songs to base three movements on. The first movement, I. Masquerade, contains themes from Andrew Lloyd Weber's *Masquerade* from the *Phantom of the Opera* and *Masquerade* by Aram Khachaturian. In the A section of this movement you hear bits of the Khachaturian wafting through, while the voice is singing the Weber. The B section is more upbeat and is solely based on the Weber. The A section returns with a brief interlude and concludes the movement.

The second movement, II. Rise Against, contains themes from several songs from the Pop Punk band Rise Against. The lyrics were created by using the technique of black out poetry using their song *Satellite*. The movement has a pulsing feel to it that mimics Rise Against's classic style. The A section has themes from their song *Satellite* which switches voices throughout the section. The B section contains quotations from their song *Make It Stop* and has an accompanying ostinato.

The final movement, III. Romance, takes it's harmonic structure from Robert Schumann's first Romance for oboe and piano. The lyrics are also tied to Schumann

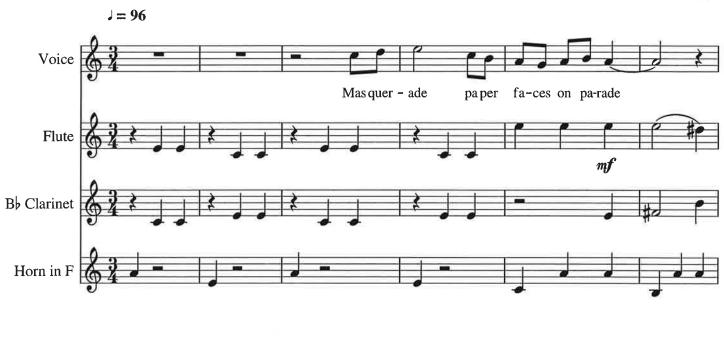
as they are from song 17 in his *Dichterliebe,* also known as A Poet's Love. I modeled this piece in the typical romantic style: slow, dark, and brooding.

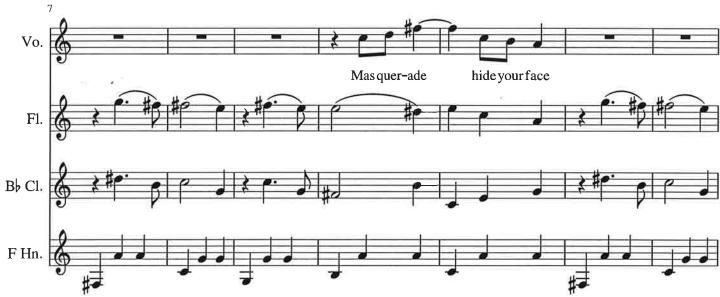
The recording portion of the project proved to be difficult. For the entirety of the piece the voice part floats above the instrumentalists. This can be difficult to fit the vocal part in with the instrumentalists. The group I recorded this with enjoyed the challenge and rose to meet it. As a composer, it is a great thing to hear your music performed by live musicians compared to the midi file that the notation software produces. I enjoyed working on this project because it allowed me to learn more about myself and to feel out my compositional style.

Masks: Three Dances

for Soprano, Flute, Clarinet & Horn

I. Masquerade

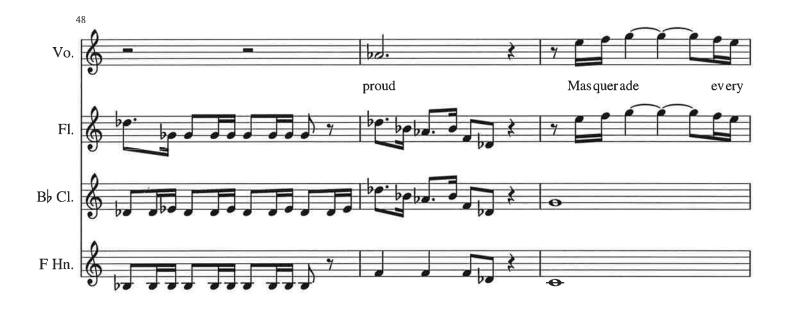


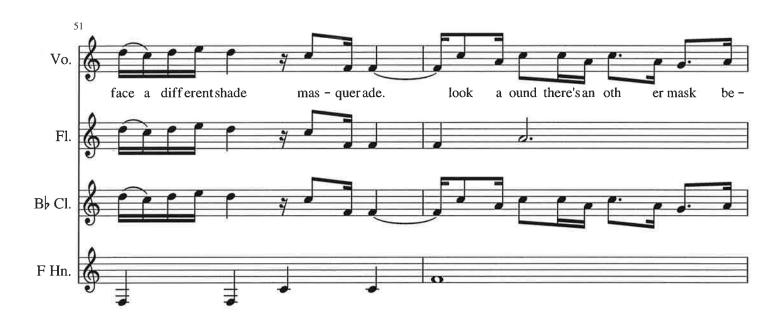






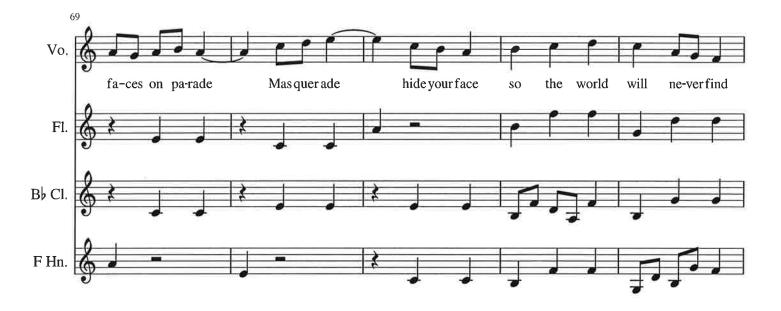










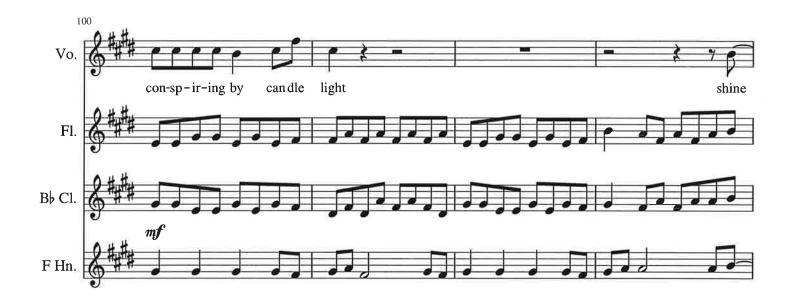




II. Rise Against



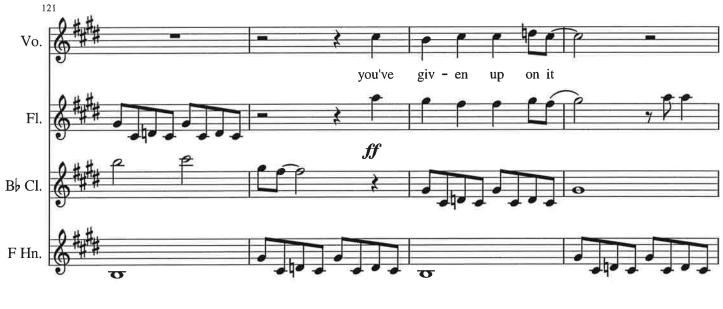














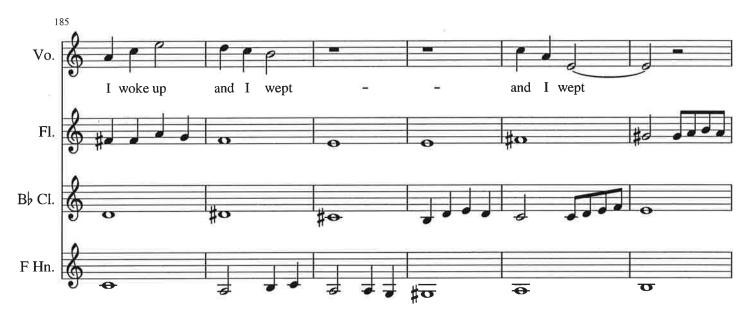


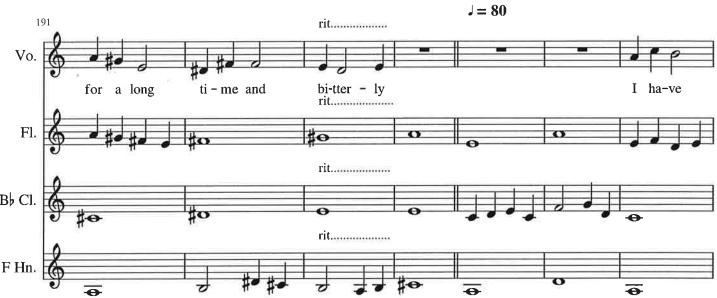
III. Romance

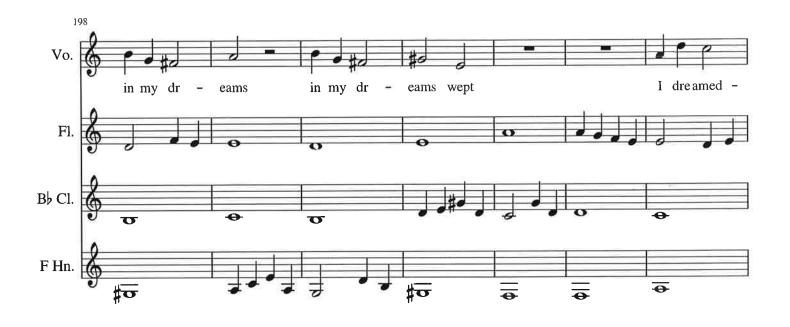




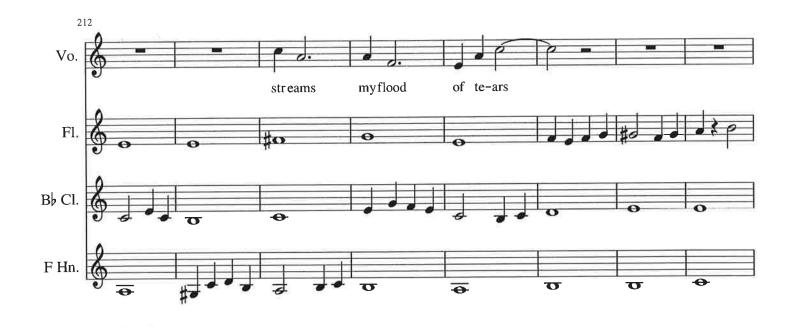


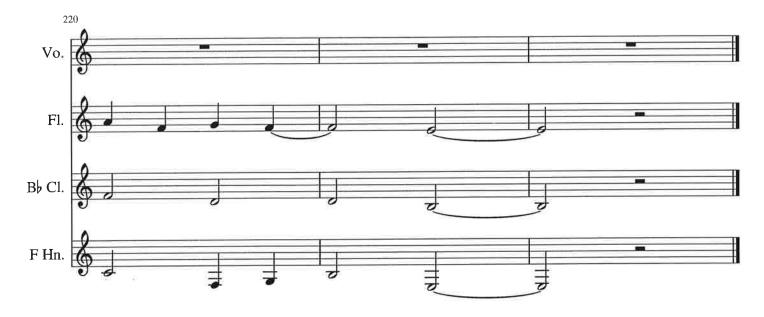












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