

Passacaglia Variants SEAN O'LOUGHLIN

Instrumentation

Full Score	1
Flute	8
Oboe	2
Bb Clarinet	8
Bass Clarinet	2
Alto Saxophone	5
Tenor Saxophone	2
Baritone Saxophone	2
Bb Trumpet	8
Horn in F	4
Trombone/Euphonium/Bassoon	6
Baritone T.C.	2
Tuba	4
Timpani	2
Mallets	1
Bells	
Percussion 1	2
Snare Drum, Bass Drum	
Percussion 2	2
Triangle, Tam-Tam, Crash Cymbals,	
Tambourine, Suspended Cymbal	



Music that Inspires

About the Composer

Sean O'Loughlin (b.1972) is the Principal Pops Conductor of Symphoria, the exciting new symphony in Syracuse, NY and the newly appointed Principal Pops Conductor of the Victoria Symphony in Victoria, B.C. Canada. His music is characterized by vibrant rhythms, passionate melodies, and colorful scoring. As a conductor and arranger, he has led performances with the Boston Pops Orchestra, the San Francisco Symphony, the Chicago Symphony, the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra, the Minnesota Orchestra, the Dallas Symphony, the Atlanta Symphony, the Houston Symphony and the Seattle Symphony amongst others. He has served as conductor for national and world-wide tours with Josh Groban, Sarah McLachlan, and

the Jerry Garcia Symphonic Celebration. He has also appeared on ABC's Good Morning America with Josh Groban and NBC's "A Very Pentatonix Christmas."

Recent collaborations include such artists as Sarah McLachlan, Adele, Josh Groban, Pentatonix, Steven Tyler and Joe Perry, Kelly Clarkson, Diana Ross, Journey, Melissa Etheridge, Weird Al Yankovic, Blue Man Group, Janelle Monáe, Audra McDonald, Hall and Oates, Gloria Estefan, the Indigo Girls, Diana Krall, Itzhak Perlman, Brandi Carlile, Martina McBride, and others.

Through his growing number of commissioned and published works, Sean is excited to continue contributing to the rich history of orchestral and wind band literature. His music is published by Excelcia Music, Hal Leonard and Carl Fischer. He is a frequent guest conductor with professional orchestras around the country and abroad. An annual ASCAP Special Awards winner, Sean was a composition fellow at the Henry Mancini Institute in Los Angeles, and holds composition degrees from New England Conservatory and Syracuse University.

About Passacaglia Variants

Passacaglia Variants is inspired by J.S. Bach's iconic Passacaglia and Fugue in C minor, BWV 582. It is a work that first fascinated me in my college studies and has continued to linger in my ear ever since. The passacaglia melody is so simply and haunting, yet mesmerizing and challenging to perform. I have always wanted to use this concept for a concert band work, so this piece is the result of that desire.

The melody itself is directly based on Bach's melody but I needed to alter some of the notes to fit into the abilities of the developing student. The introduction material becomes a counter line later in the piece. The familiar passacaglia melody itself enters at bar 13. It is extremely important to keep that melody consistent and steady throughout especially when other layers get added. The section at bar 47 is reminiscent of many classical works and hopefully the timpanist can keep those 8th notes steady or even play it as a roll from bar 47 through 50. This can also be applied to when the same passage returns at the end. The moment at bar 63 should be as big and dramatic as possible. It is the climactic peak for the passacaglia melody and should be the biggest moment of the piece.



Full Score

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DCB1903 – Set DCB1903FS – Full Score DCB1903P – Parts

