

Helpful Hints for a Successful *Chasing Light...* Performance

Our first consortium orchestras have now given their exciting performances of *Chasing Light*, and the piece has proven to be a success with audiences and orchestras alike. If you attended our first participant workshop in January 2008 or have listened to the audio model of *Chasing Light* found on your Toolkit CD, then you know that Joseph Schwantner has written us a brilliant showpiece for orchestra, filled with sonic fireworks that provide a technical showcase especially for the winds, brass and percussion.

Because of the virtuosic nature of the piece, I wanted to share some helpful hints based on our early experiences with the work so far:

Get an Early Start

Schott, the publisher of *Chasing Light...*, is prepared to send out parts and scores a full 8 weeks prior to performance dates. We are encouraging all participant orchestras to get the parts 8 weeks in advance to ensure that players will have plenty of time on individual parts.

As stated in your consortium contract, parts and scores are obtainable through Schott Rental Library. The contact information for the Rental Library is:

Attn: Amy Dickinson
Head of Rental Services
Schott Music Corporation and European American Music Dist. LLC
254 West 31st Street, 15th FL
New York, NY 10001
Phone: 212-461-6945

Winds, Brass and Percussion—Take Center Stage

Those familiar with Joseph Schwantner's work know he is brilliant at painting with sound, through richly-textured writing that often highlights the winds, brass and percussion sections. *Chasing Light...* features virtuosic writing in the principal oboe, clarinet, flute, trumpet and horn chairs, so these players especially will want to prepare early. As part of the Tool Kit DVD, we have included some musician video clips of key flute, clarinet and oboe passages which we encourage you to share with those wind chairs in your orchestra.

Helpful hint: some conductors have found that a wind and brass sectional in advance of rehearsals, or taking place during part of one rehearsal, helps to ensure that the more virtuosic and colorful passages come off with a flourish.

In terms of percussion, *Chasing Light...* is scored for one player. However, if you have a larger percussion section and/or want to involve more players, the book can be divided among two percussionists quite easily.

Listen and Play Along

Joseph Schwantner's midi audio model of *Chasing Light...* is available to you and your conductor/musicians through the Ford Made in America website via the following link: Your librarian may wish to email this link to players when parts are distributed, and post the link backstage during rehearsals (This audio model is also found on the CD in your Ford Made in America Tool Kit).

Musicians are free to play or follow along with the audio model as they prepare their individual parts.

Additionally, Joseph Schwantner, and the Reno Chamber Orchestra staff and musicians, have graciously agreed to share the live recording of the Reno Chamber Orchestra World Premiere performances with participating orchestras. We encourage conductors and musicians to listen to these acoustic performance of the piece for study purposes.

[note: pending further conversations with Joe Schwantner, we are either going to send out a hardcopy CD or post the recording on a private section of the site for participant only]

Musicians—Share Your Tips with Colleagues

As musicians engage the work, we encourage them to share their experiences and performance/practice tips with their colleagues. We've set up a "Performer's Corner" Forum, accessible through the Ford Made in America website "Resources" page (<http://fordmadeinamerica.org/resources.html>) There, you can post or read others' comments regarding practice and preparation by instrument class.

Resources for Conductors

Las Cruces Symphony Music Director Lonnie Klein, who led the Mountain Time Zone premiere of "Chasing Light...", had the opportunity to work closely with Joseph Schwantner during the Las Cruces Symphony's preparation and performance of the work. Lonnie has graciously offered to serve as a resource to any conductors who have questions. Lonnie can be reached at: lk5@nmsu.edu.