Petros Paukkunen

TOUCHED BY SACRED FIRE

for orchestra

(2019)

SCORE



Touched by Sacred Fire is a continuum of ritual dance and meditation. The title of the work evokes the myth of the ancient Greek demigod Prometheus, who stole the Olympian flame from the gods and gave it to mankind. Since fire strongly symbolizes not only power but also knowledge and craft, the myth of Prometheus has been regarded as an allegory of the dawn of civilization and science and man's rise to dominion as the most intelligent and cultured species on the Earth.

Fire, in general, carries a curious dualism about it. Prometheus' flame brings us an instrument for both advancement and calamity. In various cultures fire is an emblem of not only love, will and hope, but also, of destruction and war. Enigmatically, its binds the powers of death and life together as a pathway to rebirth through purification, whether it be the phoenix rising from the ashes, the ascent of Dante atop the mountain of purgatory, or the dancing Shiva with his myriad fiery blades. It invokes the philosophical question whether life can exist without death, whether one can thrive without the expense of another, whether peace can be truly obtained without war.

- Petros Paukkunen, May 2022

INSTRUMENTATION

Flute 1–2 (2nd doubling piccolo)

Oboe 1-2

Clarinet 1–2 (Bb)

Bassoon 1-2

Horn 1-2 (F)

Trumpets 1–2 (C)

Trombone

Bass Trombone

Tuba

Percussion 1-2*

Strings

* Percussion requirements:

Timpani, Bass Drum, Marimba, Cymbal, Cowbell, Vibraphone, Crotales, Triangle, Crash Cymbal,

Gong, Glockenspiel, Wind Chimes

Duration: 12'30

First performance September 17th, 2020 Lahti, Finland

Lahti Symphony Orchestra, c. Dima Slobodeniuk

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Parts available for hire from the publisher. Music processed by John Rogers Printed in Helsinki.

















