

COLOR CODE

For Solo Horn and Tuba with Piano

Elizabeth Raum

When I started working on a new work for horn, tuba, and piano, I had no thoughts as to what I would call it or what direction it would take. However, as often happens in composition, the piece took on a life of its own with the three movements of contrasting moods. I thought that might be a good name, "Moods", but I woke up one morning with the word "Colors," on my mind, and that soon morphed into "Color Code." There has been evidence that colors affect one's mood so this seemed a perfect alternative.

Now I had to figure out what colors would best represent each movement. The first is dissonant and militaristic with the driving accented rhythm and sudden dynamic changes. The horn and the tuba repeat each other's phrases, almost as in a competition. The quiet middle section has an ominous undercurrent, a lull in the battle. So when I thought about the colors of this movement, it occurred to me that the horn is generally a gold colored instrument and the tuba, silver. (Although it can be either silver or gold, for this purpose I decided it would be silver.) Thus the name, "A Clash of Gold and Silver".

The second movement begins full of tragedy and melancholy calling to mind the dark and forbidding colors of gray and velvet. This movement shifts between one shade of despair to another, as in "Shifting and Shimmering Shades of Violet and Gray". The opening choral-like section is suddenly interrupted by the repressed anger of the hand muted horn. The tuba and piano join, expressing growing angst until the first theme intercedes with an attempt to calm the anxiety, but it is thwarted again and again until finally a resignation is apparent although it's left to the last move to brighten the spirits.

What better colors to signify having fun than "Champagne and Chocolate!" This movement's sprightly and humorous themes, rather tongue in cheek, bring *Color Code* to a fitting and happy conclusion.

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1. CLASH OF GOLD AND SILVER

Moderato (2+2+3) ♩ = 104

Horn

Tuba

Piano

mp

f

mp

f

10

Musical notation for the first system, measures 1-4. Treble and bass staves with a circled measure number 10. The music features eighth and sixteenth notes with slurs and ties.

10

Musical notation for the second system, measures 5-8. Treble and bass staves with a circled measure number 10. The music features eighth notes and chords with slurs and accents.

(2+3)

Musical notation for the third system, measures 9-12. Treble and bass staves with a circled measure number 10. The music features eighth notes and chords with slurs and ties. A "(2+3)" marking is present above the treble staff.

(2+3)

Musical notation for the fourth system, measures 13-16. Treble and bass staves with a circled measure number 10. The music features eighth notes and chords with slurs and ties. A "(2+3)" marking is present above the treble staff.

20

p *mf*

Musical notation for the fifth system, measures 17-20. Treble and bass staves with a circled measure number 20. The music features eighth notes and chords with slurs and ties. Dynamics "*p*" and "*mf*" are indicated.

20

p *mf*

Musical notation for the sixth system, measures 21-24. Treble and bass staves with a circled measure number 20. The music features eighth notes and chords with slurs and ties. Dynamics "*p*" and "*mf*" are indicated.

Musical score for the first system. It consists of a vocal line (top two staves) and a piano accompaniment (bottom two staves). The vocal line begins with a rest, followed by a melodic phrase in 7/8 time, then 3/8 time, and finally 6/8 time. The piano accompaniment features a complex rhythmic pattern with triplets and sixteenth notes. Dynamic markings include *ff* (fortissimo) and *accel.* (accelerando).

Musical score for the second system, continuing the vocal and piano parts from the first system. The vocal line has a few more notes and rests. The piano accompaniment continues with its intricate rhythmic texture.

Musical score for the third system, concluding the vocal and piano parts of this section. The piano accompaniment ends with a final chord.

2. SHIFTING AND SHIMMERING SHADES OF VIOLET AND GRAY

Lento (lugubre) ♩ = 60

Musical score for the beginning of the second section. It shows empty vocal and piano staves, indicating a rest or a moment of silence before the music begins.

Lento (lugubre) ♩ = 60

Musical score for the beginning of the second section. The vocal line starts with a melodic phrase in 4/4 time. The piano accompaniment features a series of chords and moving lines. Dynamic markings include *mf legato* (mezzo-forte, legato) and *cresc.* (crescendo).

9 Più mosso ♩ = 84 open

f con fuoco

f

9 Più mosso ♩ = 84

ff

3

3

3

3

f

3

3

3

3

3

3

3

3

3

3

60 *rit.*

60 *rit.*

3. CHAMPAGNE AND CHOCOLATE

Allegretto ♩ = 88 *mp giocoso*

Allegretto ♩ = 88 *mp giocoso* *sim.*

mp giocoso

10

p cresc.

mf *f*

10

f *p cresc.*

mf *f* *mp*

ff *mp*

mp