

FIRST STUDY FOR ALTO SAXOPHONE: DOUBLETHINK (IN SIX PARTS)

(PART I)

for Michael Rene Torres

by

JASON THORPE BUCHANAN

MELOS MUSIC



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Jason Thorpe Buchanan (b. 1986) is an American composer of contemporary concert music. His work draws from a broad variety of aesthetic genres and influences, and has been described by critics and leading composers in the United States and Europe as “sharply-edged”, “shimmering,” “attractive,” “symphonic,” and “ambitious.” Since 2007, he has served as director of the composer’s consortium Melos Music, as well as their annual New Music Concert series. Jason spent 2010-2011 living in Germany, where he was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship at the Hochschule für Musik und Theater in Hamburg as a visiting scholar for studies with Peter Michael Hamel, Manfred Stahnke, Georg Hajdu, and Sascha Lino Lemke while conducting research and interviews in regard to compositional process and aesthetics. In 2011 his *Berlin Songs*, for two singers and mixed chamber ensemble, were performed for an audience of 400 grantees and staff at the Pan-European Fulbright conference in Berlin, Germany under the baton of Thomas Heuser, who commissioned the work alongside the German Fulbright Kommission. An expanded orchestration was later recorded and premiered in the United States at the 2nd Annual Melos New Music Concert in San Francisco, conducted by the composer. This recording later became a finalist in the “American Prize” orchestral composition competition (2012). In 2010 three chapters of his orchestral work - *The Gods of Pegāna*, were read by the Brevard Music Center Orchestra under the baton of Ken Lam. The work was later awarded the distinction of finalist in the ASCAP Morton Gould composition competition (2011), and Honorable Mention in both the ACF Minnesota Composer’s Institute competition (2011) and the ACO Underwood/San Diego readings competition (2012). In 2009, *A Zarzuela & Other Lost Works* was premiered by the Tad Wind Symphony in Tokyo for an audience of over 800, and recorded with a CD released on the Windstream label in Japan.

Jason began his studies at age fourteen at the College of San Mateo, CA, later attending San José State University to receive Bachelor’s degrees in composition and in music technology, where he was awarded the Outstanding Senior award (2008). He received his Master’s degree from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, where he taught courses in composition and music theory (2008-2010), later presented the Outstanding Graduate Student award (2009-10) by both the Music Department and the College of Fine Arts. He has studied composition with Allan Schindler, Virko Baley, Peter Michael Hamel, Jorge Grossmann, Ricardo Zohn-Muldoon, Pablo Furman, Kevin Puts, Robert Aldridge, and Manfred Stahnke, as well as conducting with maestro Takayoshi Suzuki.

As a conductor and advocate for contemporary music, Jason is committed to providing opportunities for young composers by producing high-profile concerts, where he has premiered and recorded works by living composers such as Daniel Temkin, Tonia Ko, Christopher Chandler, Chin Ting Chan, and Tom Brennan, in addition to his own, with ensembles such as Ossia, ITCH, the UNLV Brass Ensemble, and Nonsemble 6. He has received awards from ASCAP, ACF, MΦE, the NEON and Brevard Music Festivals, UNLV, SJSU, the Eastman School of Music, ACO, the American Prize, and the Miami Beach International Animated Film Festival as composer and music supervisor for the winner of Best Feature (2009). During the 2012-2013 academic year, Jason will serve as assistant conductor for Eastman’s premiere New Music Ensemble: Musica Nova with conductor Brad Lubman, as well as a board member and conductor with Ossia, coordinator of the Graduate Composers’ Sinfonietta, and co-founder/conductor of Eastman’s brand new Electro-Acoustic Initiative, the [Switch~ Ensemble].

His upcoming compositional engagements include a cycle of virtuosic works for soloists that explore xenharmonic sonorities and extended techniques, with a commission from Michael Rene Torres for his *First Study for Alto Saxophone: doublethink*, a collaboration with MacArthur “Genius” Award winning artist Anna Schuleit for his *First Study for Piano and Live Electronics: absence* to be premiered by Daniel Pesca, a collaboration with the University of Rochester Dance Department and the SoundExChange Orchestra, and a Horn Concerto commissioned by Michael Walker for the Eastman Graduate Composers’ Sinfonietta, as well as chamber works with and without electronics for Ossia, the [Switch~ Ensemble], and the 3rd Annual Melos New Music Concert in Philadelphia. During the summer of 2012 Jason will be attending the Internationale Musikinstitut Darmstadt and an analysis at IRCAM’s Agora Festival while intermittently satisfying his “wanderlust” throughout Europe as an avid hitchhiker/CSer. Jason currently studies composition with Allan Schindler and holds a Graduate Teaching Assistantship at the Computer Music Center as a Ph.D. candidate at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, NY.

For more information or to contact the composer, please visit

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