Cuauhtli
(the Aztec eagle)

A thesis presented to
the faculty of
the College of Fine Arts of Ohio University

In partial fulfillment
of the requirements for the degree
Master of Music

Luis J. Obregon

November 2008

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This thesis titled

Cuauhtli

(the Aztec eagle)

by

LUIS J OBREGON

has been approved for

the School of Music

and the College of Fine Arts by

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ABSTRACT

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Cuauhtli (41 pp.)

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“Cuauhtli” is a work for full orchestra. Its melodic and rhythmic gestures are derived from the indigenous and mestizo cultures of Mexico. Its form is thoroughly composed and has a total duration of approximately 11 minutes.

Approved: ________________________________________________________

Mark W. Phillips

Professor of Music
Program Notes

As a young boy I remember being fascinated by the Aztec cultures. I would spend many hours neatly copying their art. I was especially fascinated by their simple but yet strikingly powerful lines that interweave images with meaningful patterns that go from simple every day life to a highly complex calendar. In “Cuauhtli,” my intentions were not in creating an archeologically accurate rendition of pre-confluence music, but rather to a sonorous interpretation of the art that as a child I would imitate. Very short and recognizable motives are interwoven in long patterns creating complexly colorful textures. The musical drama inherent in “Cuauhtli” depicts a modern-day imaginary journey (or flight) into the mythology of a glorious past of a now mutilated and oppressed culture.

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Cuauhtli

(the Aztec eagle)

for full orchestra

by

Luis Obregon

2008

for Steven Huang and the Ohio University Symphony Orchestra
Instrumentation:

1 piccolo
2 flutes
2 oboes
1 english horn
2 clarinets in Bb
1 bass clarinet in Bb
2 bassoons
1 contrabassoon
4 horns
3 trumpets
3 trombones
1 tuba

timpani (4 drums)

Percussion I: snare drum, bass drum, rainstick,
tubular bells, glass wind chimes, triangle

Percussion II: high, low and mid gongs, shakers, crash,
2 bongos, wood blocks, tubular bells,
bass drum, slap stick

1 Harp
1 celesta
1 piano

violin I
violin II
viola
cello
contrabass
Cuauhtli

Luis Obregon

2008

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