I, Charlotte Sylvester, hereby submit this original work as part of the requirements for the degree of:

Master of Music

in Composition

It is entitled:

Processional for organ and percussion

Student Signature: Charlotte Sylvester

This work and its defense approved by:

Committee Chair: Joel Hoffman, DMA

Joel Hoffman, DMA
Processional for Organ and Percussion

A thesis submitted to the
Graduate School
of the University of Cincinnati
in partial fulfillment of
the degree requirements of

Master of Music

in the Department of Composition
of the College-Conservatory of Music
by

Charlotte Sylvester

B. M. University of Kansas State

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Committee Chair: Joel Hoffman, DMA
As my horizons have widened I have wanted to explore writing for organ and percussion in a post-minimalist style. *Processional* also shows influences of my favorite organ composers: Jehan Alain, Marcel Dupré, Maurice Duruflé, as well as various post-minimalist composers: Louis Andriessen, Steve Reich, Evan Ziporyn, and David Lang.

While titled “processional,” this piece is really a story of adventures. In many ways, it was an adventure for me to write, and my goal was to take the listener with me. The piece begins by setting up a calm, yet anticipatory scene. The marimba directs the listener as the organ sustains a distant, harmonic color. The tempo changes as the marimba takes off on its first adventure. As the organ joins in, the players dance through rhythms of 3+3+2 and 4+4. As in any adventure obstacles are met, here in the form of energetic 6/8 interruptions. Textures calm as the first adventure winds down and the organ and glockenspiel take hold of the storytelling. The marimba adds a very short recap of the adventure just before returning to the opening scene’s anxious waiting.

The tempo and meter change to a slow 6/8 as a new adventure gradually unfolds with a sense of wandering. The glockenspiel, organ and marimba weave in and out of descending intervals beneath a melody of suspensions. Another change in direction causes the tempo and rhythmic speed to accelerate between 7/8 and 5/8. Then 6/8 and 4+4 rhythms steer the adventure straight with a sustained organ flooding the accompaniment with harmonic color. The tempo slows a bit as the organ takes over with a foreboding pedal solo. The final adventure concludes the piece with a majestic processional. It begins as the texture fills and the melody is beaten into the
listener’s ears. The suspended cymbal and tam-tam complete the scene with lots of bright and shimmering sounds.
Processional

for organ and percussion

by Charlotte Sylvester
Percussion Key:

Bass Drum -
- Soft bass drum beater
- Hard bass drum beater

Tam-Tam -
- Soft Tam-Tam beater
- Hard Tam-Tam beater

Suspended Cymbal -
- Wooden drum stick
- Wire brush
- Soft yarn beater
- Medium yarn beater
- Hard yarn beater

Tom-Toms -
- Hit rim of drum head
- Wooden drum stick
- Hard rubber beater

Crotale -
- Double bass bow
- Soft yarn beater
- Medium yarn beater
- Hard yarn beater
- Hard rubber beater

Glockenspiel -
- Brass beater
- Medium yarn beater
- Hard yarn beater
- Hard rubber beater

Marimba -
- Hard yarn beater
- Hard rubber beater
Processional

Calm, $\frac{4}{4} \cdot \# = 100$

Soft bass drum beater

Hard wood stick

Soft tam-tam beater

Hard wood stick

4.3 octave
Marimba

> Hard yarn beater

Calm, $\frac{4}{4} \cdot \# = 100$

Sw.

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B. D.
Soft yarn beater

Cym.

T.-t.

Tom-t.

Crot.

Mar.

Org.

Ped.
B. D.

Cym.

T.-t.

Tom-t.

Crot.

Mar.

Org.

Ped.

Soft yarn beater
Hard wood stick

B. D.

Cym.

T.-t.

Tom-t.

Crot.

Glock.

Mar.

Org.

Ped.
Moving forward, \( \frac{3}{4} = 120 \)

- B. D.
- Cym.
- T.-t.
- Tom-t.
- Crot.
- Glock.
- Mar.
- Org.
- Ped.
B. D.  
Cym.  
T.-t.  
Tom-t.  
Glock.  
Mar.  
Org.  
Ped.
Hard rubber beater
Finding rest

B. D.

Cym.

Tom-t.

Glock.

Mar.

Org.

Ped.
196 Shadow of energy

B. D.

Cym.

Tom-t.

Glock.

Mar.

Org.

Ped.

3 + 3 + 2

Hard yarn beater

Sw.
Medium yarn beater
A change in direction, $\mathbf{\frac{\dot{\theta}}{\dot{\psi}} = 180}$

- **B. D.**
- **Cym.**
- **T.-t.**
- **Tom-t.**
- **Crot.**
- **Mar.**
- **Org.**
- **Ped.**

**Hard rubber beater**
Urgently, $\delta = 280$

B. D. 

Cym. 

T.-t. 

Tom-t. 

Crot. 

Mar. 

Org. 

Ped.
Hard wood stick
molto rit.

Hard yarn beater