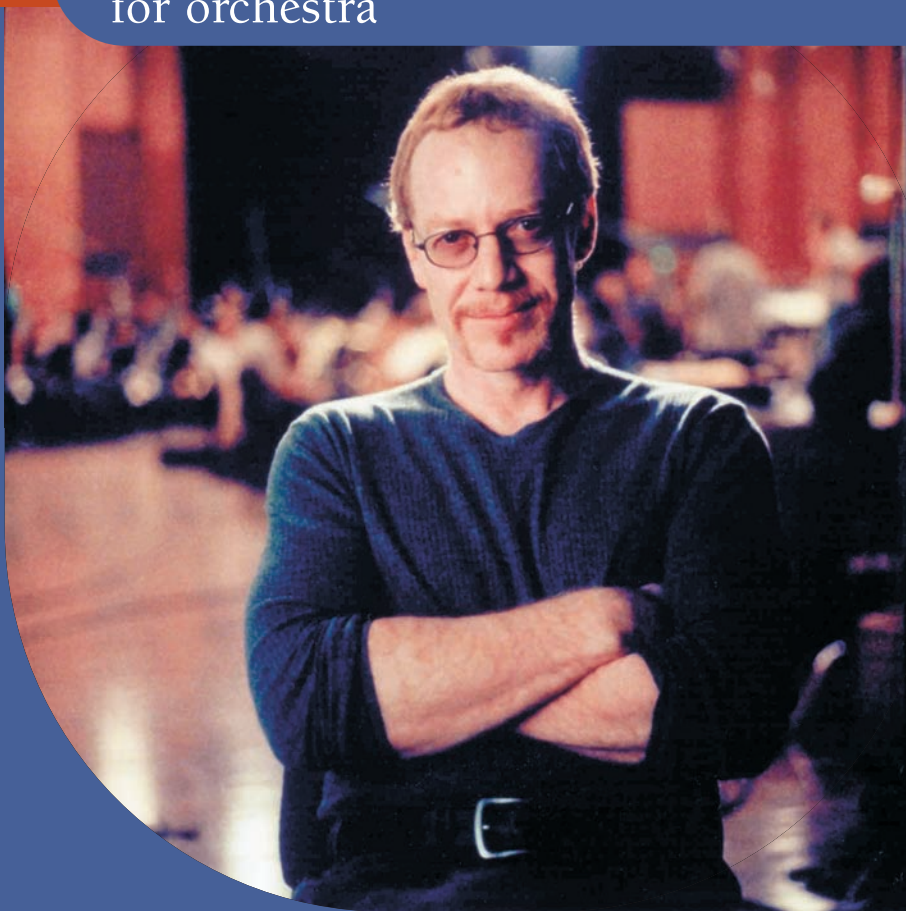


Danny Elfman

Serenada Schizophrana
for orchestra



Serenada Schizophrenia

by Danny Elfman

Commissioned by the American Composers Orchestra

Duration: ca 42'

WORLD PREMIERE

23 February 2005, Carnegie Hall,

New York City

American Composers Orchestra

Steven Sloane, conductor

ORCHESTRATION

3(2pic, afl).3(2ca).3(Ebcl, 2bcl, asx).3(2cbn)/

6.3.3(btbn)+btbn(cbtbn).1(Cimbasso)/

timp(perc).5perc/hp.2pf(syn).syn/

str(14.10.8.8.6)

small women's chorus in fifth movement



MOVEMENTS

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Pianos | 5. I Forget |
| 2. Blue Strings | 6. Bells and Whistles |
| 3. A Brass Thing | 7. End Tag |
| 4. Quadruped Patrol | |

PERFORMANCE NOTES

Movements may be performed separately with permission of the publisher.

Custom sound files and equipment available for rental from the publisher.

No electronics required in second movement.

COMPOSER NOTE

Serenada Schizophrenia is a completely new experience for me. Except for my early music/theater work, I've always had visuals to drive my orchestral music. Beginning was quite daunting. I began composing several dozen short, freeform compositions, none of them related. Some of them began to develop themselves until I had six separate movements that, in some abstract, absurd way, felt connected. I let myself wander into a musical stream of consciousness which, with the way my brain works, is not necessarily a very smooth ride.

Many of my musical influences come from mid-century film composers such as Bernard Herrmann, Nino Rota, and Alex North. In terms of classical music, I was hugely influenced by Prokofiev, Stravinsky, Orff, and Bartók. Early Duke Ellington also had a major role. I consider myself to be a musical throwback. With the exception of a few more recent influences like Harry Partch and Philip Glass, I am forever attached to the music of the early 20th century when, for me, orchestral music flourished alongside the creation of jazz in a unique and remarkable way. I suppose this piece mixes up all my influences in a kind of musical "gumbo." I hope it's interesting and perhaps even entertaining.

CRITICAL ACCLAIM

Danny Elfman's *Serenada Schizophrana*...is music that works. With six movements, rolling piano solos...and the charming hoots and chirps of eight female voices..., Mr. Elfman gave us music comfortable in its own world and highly professional in its execution. Hollywood, you say. Better good Hollywood music than second-rate Brahms. The composer of this piece has an ear for symphonic colors and how to balance them.

The American Composers Orchestra and its conductor Steven Sloane seemed to sense the quality. *Serenada Schizophrana* was more smoothly and tightly played than anything else on the program. It was a big and unusual kind of audience for a symphony event: the young and the near young were everywhere one looked...

—Bernard Holland, *New York Times*

On Feb. 23 at Carnegie Hall...Film composer Danny Elfman's first orchestral work for the concert stage, *Serenada Schizophrana*, was the evening's biggest event...In keeping with the piece's title, the music veered madly from Ellingtonian whimsy to Bernard Herrmannesque agitation...The tortured swing of the third movement conjured up the image of a jazz band on a storm-tossed raft, with trash-can cymbals acting as the crashing waves. And the furious horn-stoked climax and surprising last-second resolution of the closing movement made for a rousing finish.

—Mac Randall, *New York Observer*

COMPOSER BIO

Danny Elfman was born in 1953 in Los Angeles, California, where he currently resides. Over the last 20 years, he has established himself as one of Hollywood's leading film composers. Elfman has written close to 50 film scores featuring his unique sound, including *Batman*, *Spider-man*, *Men in Black*, *Beetlejuice*, *Edward Scissorhands*, *The Nightmare Before Christmas*, and *Pee Wee's Big Adventure*. In addition to these signature soundtracks, he has scored such diverse films as *Big Fish*, *Good Will Hunting*, *Dolores Claiborne*, *Midnight Run*, *To Die For*, *Dead Presidents*, *Sommersby*, and *Chicago*. For television, Elfman created the infectious themes to *The Simpsons* and *Desperate Housewives*. His honors include a Grammy and three Academy Award nominations.

Elfman's first experience in performance and composition was for a French theatrical troupe, "Le Grand Magic Circus," at the age of 18. The following year, he collaborated with his brother Richard performing musical theater on the streets of California. Elfman then worked with a "surrealistic musical cabaret" for six years, using this outlet to explore multifarious musical genres. For 17 years he wrote and performed with his rock band Oingo Boingo, producing such hits as "Weird Science" and "Dead Man's Party."

In 2005, Elfman worked with longtime collaborator Tim Burton on the films *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* and the stop-motion animated musical *Corpse Bride*. Other recent projects include the scores for the Disney CGI animated feature *A Day in the Life of Wilbur Robinson* and Paramount's adaptation of *Charlotte's Web*.

Elfman is self-taught and has had no formal musical training. *Serenada Schizophrana* is his first orchestral composition written specifically for the concert hall. As the featured music in the soundtrack to the IMAX film *Deep Sea 3D*, conducted by John Mauceri and narrated by Johnny Depp and Kate Winslet, it is receiving worldwide exposure.

Danny Elfman

Serenada Schizophrana

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