The Drawing of the Three

John Griffin
Western Michigan University

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THE DRAWING OF THE THREE

by

John Griffin

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in partial fulfillment of the
requirements for the
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School of Music

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Finally, extra special thanks to my parents Robert and Christina Griffin for encouraging me every step of the way and believing that I could actually have a career in the field of music.

John Griffin
THE DRAWING OF THE THREE

John Griffin, M.M.
Western Michigan University, 2004

The Drawing of the Three is a work in seven movements scored for full orchestra. The title, along with the movement names, are derived from the novel The Dark Tower II: The Drawing of the Three by Stephen King. This composition can be viewed as a "sequel" to my earlier piece The Gunslinger, inspired by the first book in King's "Dark Tower" series. Unlike the previous work, the music is not intended to be a literal programmatic representation of the book's plot. Rather, its purpose is to musically depict the personalities and inner conflicts of the characters in the story by giving them each a theme or motive that is repeated and developed throughout the piece.

The "Prologue" introduces the "Gunslinger" character, a heroic loner from a parallel dimension whose mission is to magically draw three people into his world to help him fulfill his quest to find the Dark Tower, a structure that stands at the nexus of all time and space. "The Prisoner," the first person to be drawn, is a junky suffering from withdrawal symptoms. "The Lady of Shadows" is a disabled African-American lady who has a split personality consisting of a good side and an evil side. "The Pusher" is a man who is the epitome of pure evil. The movements "Shuffle" and "Reshuffle" are transitional sections between the larger movements, while "Final Shuffle" brings the work to a close.
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THE DRAWING OF THE THREE

John Griffin

INSTRUMENTATION

Piccolo
2 Flutes
2 Oboes
English Horn
2 Clarinets in Bb
Bass Clarinet
2 Bassoons
Contrabassoon
4 Horns in F
3 Trumpets in C
3 Trombones
Tuba
Timpani (4)
Percussion (2 players):
  Snare Drum, Bass Drum, Suspended Cymbal
  Orchestral Bells
  Xylophone
Harp
Piano
Violin I
Violin II
Viola
Violoncello
Contrabass

Duration: ca. 18 minutes

Score in C
The Drawing of the Three
I. Prologue

Misterioso $J = 88$

Piccolo
Flute I, II
Oboe I, II
English Horn
Clarinet I, II in B♭
Bass Clarinet in B♭
Bassoon I, II
Contrabassoon
Horn I, III in F
Horn II, IV in F
Trumpet I, II in C
Trumpet III in C
Trombones I, II
Trombone III
Tuba
Timpani
Percussion
Orchestral Bells
Xylophone
Harp
Piano
Violin I
Violin II
Viola
Violoncello
Contrabass