Three Dances from Chaco Canyon

Michael Mauldin

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THREE DANCES FROM CHACO CANYON:
Concertpiece for Chamber Orchestra
Dedicated to Elizabeth Willink
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THREE DANCES FROM CHACO CANYON:
Concertpiece for Chamber Orchestra*

Written in 1980, Three Dances from Chaco Canyon was premiered on the summer solstice, June 21, 1981, by the Chamber Orchestra of Albuquerque, conducted by David Oberg, in a concert of my works that was sponsored by the Ghost Ranch Foundation. The first dance is separated by only a fermata from the next, and dances two and three are contiguous. Portions of the first dance recur in the second, and there is an accumulation of motives in the third. The work is filled with contrapuntal activity and devices.

Dutch linguist Elizabeth Willink, mother of my composer-friend George Willink, invited me to stay at her adobe house near Cuba, New Mexico, on my trips back and forth from Chaco Canyon. Using her piano, I sketched this work there, and years after her death I bought the home for my composing and teaching retreat.

The effect of my visits to Chaco was overwhelming. The Anasazis’ accomplishments radiated from this mecca—beautiful cities, intricate artwork, straight roads, a far-flung trade network, and a fascination with religion and the cosmos. Seeing things through the eyes of the Anasazi allowed me to say positive things in my work, but instead of eliminating the negative things, my “time-travel” at Chaco heightened the awareness of both good and evil. I felt as a child feels, breathing in both the joys and terrors of existence on this planet. Three Dances from Chaco Canyon shocked audiences with its wild reliving of ancient ceremonies. But some people missed the great tenderness of the second dance.

Duration: 10:50

* Recorded by the National Polish Radio Symphony Orchestra, conducted by David Oberg, on OPUS ONE CD 193, and by the Kiev Philharmonic, conducted by Robert Ian Winstin, on Volume 10 of the Masterworks of the New Era, produced by ERM Media.
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Flute
Oboes
B♭ Clarinet
Bassoons
Horns in F
Timpani (3)
Piano
Violins
Viola
Cello
Bass

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76

80

84

104

108

111

115

120

137

unis.
THREE DANCES FROM CHACO CANYON:
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1st Bassoon

Dedicated to Elizabeth Willink

Michael Maudlin
1st Bassoon - 3

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Michael Mauldin

1st Horn in F

\[ \frac{d}{d} = 104 \]

\[ \text{Dedicated to Elizabeth Willink} \]

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1st Horn in F - 2
1st Horn in F - 3

 senza sordino

unis.

(Tempo I)
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[138-139] p

143 change A to F (j = j)

[145-148] p

152

[153]

157 mp

[161]

166 [167]

170

[174-175] 2

f  ff  f

mp  ff

f  ff
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189 trem. e sul ponticello

\( \text{pp} \)

193

197 (\( \text{d} = \text{d} \))

201\( \text{ord.} \)

204\( \text{f} \)\( \text{ff mf ff mf} \)\( \text{f} \)

205\( \text{ff mf mf} \)\( \text{f} \)\( \text{mf} \)

208\( \text{>mf} \)\( \text{f} \)\( \text{cresc.} \)\( \text{ff} \)\( \text{f} \)

212\( \text{>mf} \)\( \text{mp} \)\( \text{mf} \)

214\( \text{mp} \)

215\( \text{mf} \)
Violin II - 3

93  con sordino

102  (j = j)

112  senza sordino

116  mp

119  sub. p

122  (mf)

125  div.

131  unis.

135  unis.

136  div.

139  pp
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Viola - 5

202

ff mf ff mf f

[205-207]

208

mf f mf f ff

213

mp mf mp mf

217

mp mf mp mf f

221

mf f

226

[pizz.] ff

[226-228] mf

231

cresc.

234

236

[arco] ff

239

ff
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Cello

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Cello - 5

201

\[ \begin{array}{c}
\frac{3}{4} \ \text{f} \\
\text{ff mf ff > mf f} \\
\end{array} \]

205

\[ \begin{array}{c}
\frac{3}{4} \ \text{pizz.} \\
\text{mp} \\
\end{array} \]

214

219

223

\[ (J = J) \]

224

229 (pizz.)

230

233

235

\[ \text{cresc.} \]

238 arco

240

\[ \begin{array}{c}
\frac{3}{4} \ \text{f} \\
\text{ff} \\
\end{array} \]
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