

DOUBLE VIOLIN CONCERTO

Lisa Bielawa

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Note

Premiere: March 29, 2008, Boston Modern Orchestra Project, conducted by Gil Rose, with Carla Kihlstedt and Colin Jacobsen, soloists; Jordan Hall, Boston, MA
Commissioned by BMOP and Premiere: The Campaign for New Works, Frederica and James R. Rosenfield, James Barnett and Carolyn Haynes, and the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study. Composed in Residence at the Radcliffe Institute.

Duration: 27'

Instrumentation: For 2 violins and orchestra (2-2-0-2, 2-2-1-0, accordion, strings)

The idea of the Double Violin Concerto arose out of a natural convergence of three of my deepest collaborative relationships: with violinist Colin Jacobsen, violinist-vocalist Carla Kihlstedt and BMOP conductor Gil Rose. It turned out to be a dizzying, joyful celebration of so many aspects of shared music-making with these three friends and muses: multi-part lyrical canons, technical puzzles, gypsy rhythms applied to ancient Gregorian chant melodies, vocalization, extended techniques, improvised implementation of an Ornament Library, dueling embellishments, and metric modulations at warp speed. The text for the Song, which is the guiding spirit of the whole piece, comes from Goethe's *Faust*:

Excerpts from Goethe's *Faust*, translation by Walter Kaufmann
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*You know, the stage...
Let's each do what he wants to do;
Tonight, therefore, I say to you,
Do not spare our machinery.
Employ the sun and moon, do not hold back!
Use all the stars we have in stock;
Of water, fire, walls of rock,
And beasts and birds there is no lack.*

*Leave the great world, let it run riot,
And let us stay where it is quiet.
It's something that has long been done,
To fashion little worlds within the bigger one.*

– Lisa Bielawa

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