

Lisa Bielawa

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Note

Premiere: February, 1997, Moorhead State University, Minnesota
Duration: 7'
Instrumentation: Symphonic Band

The days are short and the snow-banks are high in Moorhead, Minnesota (just across the state border from Fargo, North Dakota) in February. When I learned that my new work for this large group would be premiered right in the middle of the winter, I wanted to create a piece that could create some sonic heat, and possibly give voice to the stir-craziness that the students reported feeling during the coldest months. *Tantrum* takes small melodic phraselets and presents them in different speeds, moods, and harmonic contexts. In the second half of the piece, different subsets of instruments in the band begin to utter fanfares at different speeds, overlapping each other in competing cries, some urgent, some bombastic, some plaintive. Throughout, the groups come together occasionally for a massive tutti complaint, which gains urgency at the end.

– Lisa Bielawa

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