GREEN DIAMOND
2018
Duration: 6 minutes, 15 seconds

Instrumentation: (parts may be doubled)

Piccolo
3 Flutes
2 Oboes
2 Bassoons
3 Clarinets in Bb
Bass Clarinet in Bb
2 Alto Saxophones in Eb
Tenor Saxophone in Bb
Baritone Saxophone in Eb
3 Trumpets in Bb
4 Horns in F
3 Trombones
Euphonium
Tuba

Timpani
Percussion 1: Two Low Tenor drums, Glockenspiel, Tambourine, Vibraphone
Percussion 2: Snare Drum, Conga (2 drums), Tambourine, Tam-tam
Percussion 3: High and Med-low Woodblocks, Marimba, Sus. Cymbal
Percussion 4: Claves, Sus. Cymbal, Tam-tam, Chimes
Percussion 5: Bass Drum, Bell tree, Bongos

Program Note

*Ideally, the soloist should be just offstage (backstage), not visible to the audience, but able to see the conductor. If backstage is not possible, other options include the back of the hall behind the audience. The conductor may use their judgement regarding exact placement, direction the soloist faces, and overall sound. The soloist should sound slightly distant to the audience.

Green Diamond is the second piece in the Magnolia Star Trilogy, a group of pieces inspired by the blues scale and the American railroad. The first piece in the series, Magnolia Star, was written in 2012. Green Diamond uses the blues scale as a key influence, but a new element is added as well: the minor/major chord (C,Eb,G,B,D). These two sound worlds (the blues scale and the minor/major chord) are used to generate harmonic and melodic material that alternate, compete, and combine throughout the piece. Like Magnolia Star, the influence of the American railroad provides sounds that are fast, driving, and exciting. Green Diamond also features an off-stage alto saxophonist who provides somewhat distant, jazzy reminders of the blues scale, offering an answer Green Diamond’s preoccupation with the minor/major chord.

Green Diamond, like Magnolia Star, was the name of a train that ran in the early 20th century as part of the Illinois Central Railroad.
Transposed Score
Duration: 6 minutes, 15 seconds

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