

Todd Tarantino
A Song for Dessa
(with apologies to Aaron and Charles)

Chamber Orchestra



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A Song for Dessa

(with apologies to Aaron and Charles) (2010)

Instrumentation

Oboe
Clarinet in Bb
Horn in F
Trumpet
Trombone

Strings

Duration: approximately 5 minutes

Conductors Score in C

All instruments notated at sounding pitch.
Customary transpositions for contrabass apply.

For further information
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Program Note

Like many new parents, I developed an entire repertoire of songs to accompany every aspect of my newborn's life, from going to sleep to eating to changing diapers. Favorites included: 'Here I Am, Baby Dessa,' 'Are You A Nommer?', and 'Gorilla, Gorilla, Gorilla'. Over the course of my daughter's first year, these tunes became more and more pervasive in my musical life. They appeared as dictations in an Ear Training class I was teaching; I used them as examples for harmonization in a theory class.

While living in Delhi in the fall of 2010, I thought it would be a good idea to finally enter these songs into the computer for documentation sake. What began as a quick little task, notating a short melody, eventually became more complicated as it developed into a movement for string quartet and then expanded to become a work for chamber orchestra, a piece that itself begins simply before eventually growing to take on a life of its own.

A Song for Dessa

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Dolce, con calor ♩ = c. 54

The musical score is arranged in a standard orchestral format with ten staves. The instruments are Oboe, Clarinet, Horn, Trumpet, Trombone, Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Cello, and Bass. The score begins with a tempo marking of 'Dolce, con calor' and a quarter note equal to approximately 54 beats per minute. The key signature is three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and the time signature is 3/4. The Oboe part features a 'Solo dolce espressivo' section starting in the 7th measure, marked 'mp'. The Violin 2 part is marked 'dolce espressivo' and 'respirando' from the beginning, with a 'p' dynamic. The Viola and Cello parts are also marked 'dolce espressivo' and 'p'. The Bass part is marked 'mp' in the 7th measure. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, accents, and dynamic markings.

mp *mf*

p *p* *mf* *p*

p *dolce espressivo legato* *mf* *dolce espressivo* *mf* *dolce espressivo* *mf*

p *mp* *mf* *mf* *mf*

mp *mp* *mf*

p *sostenuto* *mf*