THE ELEMENTS: PERIOD 2, FOR LARGE ORCHESTRA

by

ALEXANDER EUGENE LAFOLLETT

A DISSERTATION

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and the Graduate School of the University of Oregon
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for the degree of
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Student: Alexander E. LaFollett

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This dissertation has been accepted and approved in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Doctor of Philosophy degree in the School of Music and Dance by:

Dr. Robert Kyr Chairperson, Adviser
Dr. David Crumb Member
Dr. Jack Boss Member
Dr. Michael Kellman Outside Member

and

Kimberly Andrews Espy Vice President for Research and Innovation; Dean of the Graduate School

Original approval signatures are on file with the University of Oregon Graduate School.

Degree awarded June 2013
The Elements: Period 2, for Large Orchestra is a 44-minute-long cycle of eight orchestral "tone images", each one based upon an individual element from the second period of the Periodic Table of Elements: Lithium, Beryllium, Boron, Carbon, Nitrogen, Oxygen, Fluorine, and Neon. These tone images are inspired by the physical and chemical properties, uses, etymologies, interactions with biologic systems, and cultural associations of each element. They are intended for performance either individually or together as a set, possibly in combination with the Hydrogen and Helium pieces composed for my master's thesis (Central Washington University, 2006).

Rather than taking a serialized approach, where various musical parameters are predetermined by raw data about each element, I sought to use the elements' properties and associations mostly as creative inspiration, more in line with traditional notions of programmatic orchestral music, such as tone poems and programmatic symphonies. Paralleling the fact that my dissertation is inspired by the building blocks of all chemical matter, I have used my personal musical building blocks—my system of over 400 heptatonic modes—in composing these pieces.
CURRICULUM VITAE

NAME OF AUTHOR: Alexander E. LaFollett

GRADUATE AND UNDERGRADUATE SCHOOLS ATTENDED:

University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon
Central Washington University, Ellensburg, Washington
Western Oregon University, Monmouth, Oregon
Portland State University, Portland, Oregon
Portland Community College, Portland, Oregon

DEGREES AWARDED:

Doctor of Philosophy, Music Composition, 2013, University of Oregon
Master of Music, Music Composition, 2006, Central Washington University
Bachelor of Music, Music Composition, 2003, Western Oregon University
Associate of Arts, 2001, Portland Community College

AREAS OF SPECIAL INTEREST:

Music Composition
Music Theory

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

Interim Adjunct Instructor, Music Department, Portland Community College, 2013
Graduate Teaching Fellow, Oregon Bach Festival Composers' Symposium, 2007
Graduate Teaching Assistant, Music Theory and Music Technology, Central Washington University, 2004-2006
Private Music Teacher, Forest Grove, Oregon, 2002-2004

GRANTS, AWARDS, AND HONORS:

Third Angle New Ideas In Music Competition Finalist, 2012
Ruth Lorraine Close Fellowship Recipient, 2006-2009
Graduate Teaching Fellowship, University of Oregon School of Music and Dance, 2007
Graduate Teaching Assistant, Music Theory and Music Technology, Central Washington University, 2004-2006
Society of Composers' Region VIII Conference Presenter, 2005
California State University Summer Arts Music Technology Program Participant, 2005
Oregon Symphony Conti Connection Winner, 2004
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To Tomas Svoboda, my first composition teacher, who helped shape me into the composer I am today.
<table>
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<th>Movement</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lithium, Op. 43</td>
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<td>Beryllium, Op. 44</td>
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<td>Neon, Op. 50</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
3 Flutes (*Flute 3* doubling Piccolo)

2 Oboes

English Horn

3 Clarinets in B-flat (*Clarinet 3* doubling *Bass Clarinet in B-flat* and *Clarinet in E-flat*)

3 Bassoons (*Bassoon 3* doubling *Contrabassoon*)

4 Horns

3 Trumpets in C

3 Trombones (2 Tenor, 1 Bass)

Euphonium

Tuba

Timpani

Percussion (4 players):

- Snare Drum
- Tambourine
- Tam-tam
- Bass Drum
- Glockenspiel
- Tubular Bells
- Claves
- Vibraphone
- Triangle
- Xylophone
- Crotales

Celesta

Harp

Strings
BORON
ELEMENT NO. 5
Opus 45 (2013)

\((\ell + \jmath)\)
(MODE \ell j = \text{SALASSIAN})
Off-mixer \ell \neq \text{shh}

\(\ell\)
\(\jmath\)
\(\ell + \jmath\)

Perc.
Flutes
Oboes
English Horn
Clarinet in B♭
Bass Clarinet in B♭
Baritone
Contrabassoon
Harmonica
Trumpetes in C
Tenor Trombones
Bass Trombone
Tuba
Timpani
Chorus
Violas
Violins
Contrabass
Carbon
Element No. 6

Opus 46 (2013)
NITROGEN
ELEMENT NO. 7

Opus 47 (2013)

(+) (+) (+)
(MODE E - DORIAN)
Lyric, flowing, z = 60

Flute

Oboe

English Horn

Clarinet in Bb

Bass Clarinet in Bb

Bassoon

Horn in F

Trumpets in C

Harp

Violin I

Violin II

Viola

Violoncello

Contrabass
Distant, gleaming \( v \approx 76 \)