Technical and Performance Analysis of Scott McAllister’s Devil Sticks, Uncle Sam’s Songbag Vol. I, Freebirds, and Funk

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Abstract
Four of composer Scott McAllister’s works, Devil Sticks, Uncle Sam’s Songbag Vol. I, Freebirds, and Funk feature the clarinet within a variety of ensembles. The purpose of my dissertation is to analyze the music in three ways: the background and outside influences found within each work, what happens in the pieces in terms of clarinet interaction with the ensemble(s), and finally relate it to McAllister’s other works. Through an interview with the composer, insight was gained into the background and history of each work, including who commissioned and first performed each one, any themes running throughout each piece, and outside influences, musical or otherwise, which appear in the pieces. An analysis of each piece in terms of overall form and structure, musical gestures contained within, and interaction between the clarinet and other instruments helps to define the clarinetists’ role in each piece. The information gathered is then combined to relate the compositions to others by the same composer, revealing commonalities and providing insight into stylistic characteristics used by McAllister as a whole. This information is gathered in hopes of an end result of helping performers to dissect the music to find the influences, compositional techniques, and commonalities with other works by the same composer in order to further their understanding of not only the four pieces predominantly featured throughout the document, but extrapolate the findings into McAllister’s compositional tendencies as a whole.
Furthermore, Uncle Sam appeared as a horror villain in the eponymously titled 1997 film, Uncle Sam. In this film, a veteran who died during Operation Desert Storm rises from the dead to exact justice upon some teenagers who burned the American Flag on his grave. Major League Baseball's New York Yankees feature Uncle Sam's hat in their team logo, where it sits atop a bat that forms the vertical line of the “K” in “Yankees.” The hat is frequently used in imagery pertaining to the team, and fans often wear Uncle Sam hats to games or other functions. In music, rock gr Sickness Vol: 1 by VCTMS, released 23 August 2014 1. Cynic 2. The Nine 3. Abstract 4. Left Behind 5. Spoken Slander 6. Sinister 7. Lobotomy 8. Sleep Mixed, Mastered, and Engineered by Sam Bottner of Barrier. Kenny McGalem Sometimes bands take a hiatus from their music (either for a while or forever), and bands like Yüth Forever will be irrefutably missed. Yet as time passes, other bands emulate some qualities of the music, altogether becoming something fresh, new, and innovative. Streamwood, Illinois' VCTMS are some remarkably heavy and violent guys that really deliver. Relying on heavy grooves, unrelenting audible rawness, and a distorted, yet crisp instrumental edge, Sickness Vol: 1 is a beast of an album. :) Favorite track: Left Behind. m0bster.