

# ***SLALOM***

Orchestra  
1998/9

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*Premiered by the Haddonfield Symphony, New Jersey under the baton of Daniel Hege,  
March 2000*

DURATION: 9'

2 Flutes  
Piccolo  
3 Oboes  
3 Clarinets (3. dbl Bass)  
3 Bassoons (3. dbl Contra)

4 Horns (F)  
3 Trumpets (C)  
2 Trombones  
Bass Trombone  
Tuba

Harp  
Piano/Celesta  
Timpani  
3 Percussion

Strings

Program Note:

***SLALOM*** is a taste of the thrill of downhill skiing. The work is performed at a severe tempo throughout showcasing the orchestra's volatility and endurance. The idea for a piece like this came directly out of a wonderful discovery I made several years ago at Steamboat Springs, Colorado when I embarked on the mountain-base gondola with a cassette player and headphones. At the time I was treating myself to large doses of Shostakovich's Tenth Symphony and Rachmaninoff's *Symphonic Dances*. The exhilaration of barreling down the Rockies with such music pumping into my ears was overwhelming. After a few years of skiing with some of the greatest repertoire it occurred to me that I could customize the experience.

The work is presented as a collection of scenes and events one might come by on the slopes. The score is peppered with phrase-headings for the different sections such as "First Run", "Open Meadow, Champagne Powder", "Straight Down, TUCK" and "On One Ski, Gyrating" among others. In this way *SLALOM* shares its programmatic feature with that of Richard Strauss' *Alpine Symphony*. The similarities end there, however, for *SLALOM* lasts ten minutes...precisely the amount of time I need to get from Storm Peak (the peak of Mt. Werner, Steamboat Springs) to the mountain base, skiing full throttle.

\*Contact the composer for a reference recording of ***SLALOM*** for orchestra.