SCENES FROM GABRILIM

BY

IAN BOSWELL

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SCENES FROM GABRILIM

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ABSTRACT

Scenes from Gabrilim is an orchestral tone poem inspired by my friend Emily Cohen's novel, working title Gabrilim. The story is set in a fantasy world with strong ancient-Hebraic influences. It follows the courses of several main characters as they grow, interact, experience different cultures and ultimately reform their society. In Scenes from Gabrilim, I have associated certain melodies, chord progressions, and leitmotifs with characters, places, and events in the story. In Cohen's novel, Gabrilim's culture is made-up, but inspired by ancient Hebrew society. I have reflected this in the music by absorbing the musical style of Jewish cantoring and ancient Hebrew chant and then making up my own melodies inspired by that style. Each of the main characters has a recurring theme that draws from this ancient musical heritage while also reflecting the character's personality and the fantasy aspect of the novel.

Characters

Loridun (theme first appears in m.20): Benyamin and Sage's uncle, exiled decades ago for the murder of his brother. Misunderstood and defiant, he hopes to change the social structure of the conservative city-state Gabrilim, making it more egalitarian.

Benyamin (m.59): a youth of Gabrilim set to become the next headmaster at the school of the Gift (the supernatural force that select Gabrilimites have an aptitude for).

Sage (m.67): his twin sister, a boisterous and strong-willed young woman with whom Benyamin shares a telepathic bond.

Dora (m.90): Benyamin and Sage's mother; Loridun's sister. An embodiment of unconditional love and a desire to understand and make amends.

Halidorn (m.154): Dora's husband, the twins' father. An embodiment of Gabrilim's traditions and heritage that stretch back centuries.

Instrumentation

2 Flutes
2 Oboes
2 Clarinets (2nd doubles on Bass Clarinet)
2 Bassoons
4 Horns
2 Trumpets in C
2 Trombones
Bass Trombone
Tuba
3 Percussion
   1: Timpani
   2: Crotales, tubular bells, wood blocks
   3: Suspended cymbal, crash cymbals, tam tam, bass drum, wind chimes

Harp
Violin 1 and 2
Viola
Violoncello
Double Bass
Vivid; full of life (4 = 108)
With a ghost of hope ($\lambda = 108$)
Defeated ($\lambda = 104$) 250 Imprisoned ($\lambda = 88$)

Fl.
Ob.
Bb Cl.
Bsn.
Hn.
Hn.
C Tpt.
Trb.
B. Tbn & Tuba
Timp.
Mall.
Psn.
Hrp.
Vlns. 1
Vlns. 2
Vlas.
Vlbs.
Dbs.

mf mp mf mp mf $p$ p
mf mp mf mp mf $p$ a 2
mf $p$
mf $p$
mf $p$

Tubular Bells
Sus. cymbal brush

mp $f$ mp $f$ mp

sul tasto
disto
tatiso
tatiso

sul pont
sul pont
sul pont
sul pont