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Four Compositions and supporting Commentary

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Passing Through Three Points
A Suite for Orchestra

by

Ian L Mitchell
front cover art:

‘Passing through’

free iPhone wallpaper
Passing Through Three Points
A Suite for Orchestra
(2013)

1. Passing Through Streets
2. Passing Through the Geodesic
3. Passing Through the Origin

Dur. 23 mins 41 secs

Instrumentation

Piccolo
1st Flute
2nd Flute
1st Oboe
2nd Oboe
Cor Anglais
1st Clarinet in B♭
2nd Clarinet in B♭
Bass Clarinet in B♭
1st Bassoon
2nd Bassoon
Contrabassoon

1st Horn in F
2nd Horn in F
3rd Horn in F
4th Horn in F
1st Trumpet in B♭
2nd Trumpet in B♭
3rd Trumpet in B♭
1st Trombone
2nd Trombone
Bass Trombone
Tuba

Timpani

Crotales
Cymbals/Tambourine
Tam-tam/Triangle
Bass Drum/Woodblock

1st Harp
2nd Harp

1st Violins x 14
2nd Violins x 12
Violas x 10
Violoncelli x 8
Double Basses x 8
Passing Through Three Points

A Suite for Orchestra

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Ian L Mitchell

1. Passing Through Streets
2. Passing Through the Geodesic
3. Passing Through the Origins

*Passing Through Streets* is the rough derivative of the Spanish word Passacaglia; I did not want to use the term Passacaglia as the title of the movement because the piece is not a strict Passacaglia. The odd numbered playings of the melody (the complete tone row) are strict repetitions, however the even numbered playings are as close as I can get them within the constrictions of half of the tone row. This makes for a constantly varying melodic language.

*Passing Through the Geodesic* is a Scherzo in essence. In mathematical terms the Geodesic is the shortest line between two points on a sphere; this scherzo is the fast movement which links the two outer slow movements.

*Passing Through the Origin* uses isorhythmic phrases to form its structure. Each of the three tone rows used in this movement has its own rhythmic row with the respective augmentations, diminutions and retrograde permutations. Mathematically, a line which passes through zero at 45 degrees on a graph is said to be passing through zero. This movement places equal importance on rhythmic possibilities (the x axis of the graph) and pitch (the y axis of the graph).
Passing Through Three Points

1. Passing through Streets
3. Passing through the Origin