Sovereign

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Sovereign

A Thesis

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the Degree of

Master of Music

By

Christian Johnson

May 2020

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Abstract

Sovereign is a musical retelling of the Revelation of Jesus Christ, the last book of the Bible. This Scripture describes the end times, the temptations of Satan and his followers, the destruction of the world, the pouring out of God’s wrath on unbelievers and the presence of God’s grace within this wrath, the second coming of Jesus Christ, the battle of Armageddon, and the eternal kingdom to come. The musical work is directly inspired by the text and attempts to represent the events that are foretold.

The first movement, “Whoever Has Ears,” depicts chapters 1-4 of the book of Revelation, written by the apostle John. In the second movement, “The Lamb and the Scroll,” the book continues as Jesus is represented as the Lamb who is the only one worthy to open the scroll of seven seals. In the third movement, “The Seven Trumpets,” seven angels sound their trumpets, each one causing more turmoil on the earth. The fourth movement, “The Dragon and the Beast,” depicts the devil and the antichrist, who set out to deceive the world. In the fifth movement, “Divine Wrath,” Jesus, the heavenly warrior, returns to the earth and defeats the powers of evil. The sixth movement, “Death and Resurrection,” shows the thousand-year reign of Jesus on the earth and the creation of a new heaven, a new earth, and a new Jerusalem. The seventh, final movement, “Eternity,” imagines the peaceful serenity that awaits in the everlasting life at home with God.
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Rev. 4:5-7, "From the throne came flashes of lightning, rumblings, and peals of thunder... around the throne were four living creatures..."
II. The Lamb and the Scroll

---

Ped. as needed

---

\( \text{Rev. ch. 5-7} \)

---

\( \text{Baritone Saxophone} \)

---

\( \text{Alto Saxophone 1-2} \)

---

\( \text{Tenor Saxophone 3} \)

---

\( \text{Bass Trombone} \)

---

\( \text{Horn in F 1-2} \)

---

\( \text{Bass Clarinet} \)

---

\( \text{Clarinet in B} \)

---

\( \text{Clarinet in B 1} \)

---

\( \text{Clarinet in B 2} \)

---

\( \text{Bass Clarinet in B} \)

---

\( \text{Alto Saxophone 1-2} \)

---

\( \text{Tenor Saxophone} \)

---

\( \text{Baritone Saxophone} \)

---

\( \text{Trumpet in B} \)

---

\( \text{Trumpet in B 1} \)

---

\( \text{Trumpet in B 2} \)

---

\( \text{Horns in F 1-2} \)

---

\( \text{Horns in F 1} \)

---

\( \text{Horns in F 2} \)

---

\( \text{Tenorophone 1-2} \)

---

\( \text{Bass Tenorophone} \)

---

\( \text{Upright Piano} \)

---

\( \text{Tuba} \)

---

\( \text{Contrabass} \)

---

\( \text{Piano} \)

---

\( \text{Percussion 1} \)

---

\( \text{Percussion 2} \)

---

\( \text{Percussion 3} \)
Matt 25:1-3, First seal is broken, first kingdom is summoned

Rev. 6:1-2, First seal is broken; first horseman is summoned

Perc. 2

Pno. 1

Tpt. 1

B. Cl.

Cl. 3

Cl. 2

Cl. 1

Picc.

Tba.

B. Cl.

Cl. 3

Cl. 2

Cl. 1

Picc.

Tba.

B. Cl.

Cl. 3

Cl. 2

Cl. 1

Picc.

Tba.

B. Cl.

Cl. 3

Cl. 2

Cl. 1

Picc.

Tba.
Rev. 6:12-14, Sixth seal is broken; destruction begins

A tempo

A tempo

A tempo

A tempo

A tempo


gliss.


gliss.


gliss.


gliss.


gliss.


gliss.


gliss.


gliss.


gliss.


gliss.


gliss.
Rev. 7:2-3, 144,000 people from the 12 tribes of Israel are sealed.
III. The Seven Trumpets

Text continues with musical notation and instructions for performance.
...
Rev. 8:12-13, Fourth angel sounds trumpet; "a third of the sun was smitten"
Rec. 5:1-11. First angel sounds trumpet; fifth star upon the abyss, monsters emerge to torment people.
Re. 9:13-19, Sixth angel sounds trumpet; four fallen angels and an army are released to kill a third of mankind.
..{..}Bongos continues to worship demons and idols..{..}
and kills the two witnesses
Rev. 11:7, The beast attacks
and kills the two witnesses.
Refrain 1–2, 3–4; Note: Behold, two witnesses appear at the death of the two witnesses, but are killed when they rise and are called up to heaven, and there is a severe earthquake on the earth.
IV. The Dragon and the Beast

IV.1. A great sign appears in heaven, an elementary red dragon attempts to kill the child, the promised savior of the world, who is born of her.
Adapted from Revelation 13:

Verse 14:11-18

A second beast comes out of the earth and deceives the nations.

Tempo: I (≈ 280)

Earth to deceive, kill, and give the mark of the beast.
Rev. 15, Seven angels come out of God's temple
and are given seven bowls of God's wrath.
Rev. 16, Seven bowls of wrath are poured out onto the earth
Bari. Sax.
Bsn. 1-2
Hn. 1-2
Ob. 1-2
B. Tbn.
Perc. 4
Perc. 3
Fl. 1-2
Tpt. 3
Tpt. 2
Tpt. 1
Cl. 2
Cl. 1
Picc.
Tba.
Pno.
Db.

—

play near frog

—

detached

—

.
arms into battle against Jesus and the armies of heaven.
Rev. 19:20-21, The Heavenly Warrior, Jesus, defeats the beast, who is cast into the lake of fire...
VI. Death and Resurrection