

Concerto for Amplified Double Bass & Strings



Simon Garcia (b. 1977)

Concerto for Amplified (optional) Double Bass and String Orchestra is a modern style concerto because it has some characteristics that differentiate it from other, more traditional concerti.

The work consists of three movements. The thematic material of the first movement moves between Funk, Rock, and Latin music. The first movement has several cadenzas (rather than the more standard one cadenza) that mimic improvised solos reminiscent of an electric guitar solo.

The second movement is connected to the first movement by a cadenza that uses thematic material from the first movement while also developing what will become the main theme of the second movement. Both of these share the same orchestra “tutti” introduction. The body of the second movement has the soulful style of a slow blues where the solo double bass presents the theme throughout the range of the instrument. It also has an open section to improvise a solo.

The third movement begins with a funk-style cadenza where the principal double bass in the orchestra performs the function of bass and drums with percussion hits on the body of the instrument. After a funk-style main theme, the solo double bass has a section where the solo is in a Hip-Hop/Rap style.

The Concerto is very demanding for the soloist due to its technical difficulty. It is full of cadenzas for solo double bass and explores sonorities throughout the instrument's range. This concerto was commissioned by and dedicated to Diego Zecharies who premiered it in Lugo, Spain in 2020 with LUCA Camerata. Susan Hagen performed the North American premiere with the Plymouth Philharmonic Orchestra in November 2022.

(From the North Shore Philharmonic program notes, April 23, 2023)