NANCY VAN DE VATE

PURA BESAKIH 1987

Vienna Masterworks (BMI) Khleslplatz 6, #2309 A-1120 Vienna, Austria

PREVIEW

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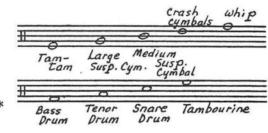
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INSTRUMENTATION

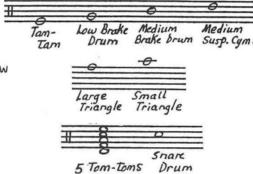
Flutes 1, 2
Flute 3/Piccolo
Oboes 1, 2
Oboe 3/English Horn
Clarinets 1, 2, 3 in Bb
Bassoons 1, 2
Bassoon 3/Contrabassoon
Horns 1, 2, 3, 4 in F
Trumpets 1, 2, 3 in Bb
Trombones 1, 2, 3
Tuba
Percussion 1, 2

1 Tambourine
Snare Drum II (same pitch
as S.D. I)
Tenor Drum
Bass Drum
Bell Tree
Cymbals
Medium Suspended Cymbal*
Large Suspended Cymbal
Tam-tam *
Whip
Temple Blocks*
Glockenspiel
Vibraphone



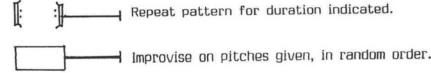
2 Snare Drum I
Five Tom-toms
2 Triangles, small and large
Medium Suspended Cymbal*
2 Brake Drums, medium and low
Large Tam-tam*
Temple Blocks*
Chimes
Xylophone
Marimba

Shared or duplicated.



Timpani Harp Piano/Celesta Violins Violas Violoncellos Double Basses

Score is in C. Piccolo, celesta and xylophone sound one octave higher than written. Glockenspiel sounds two octaves higher and double basses one octave lower.



Duration: 15 minutes

PROGRAM NOTES

Pura Besakih (Besakih Temple) is the largest and most venerated shrine on the island of Bali. It rests high on the slopes of Gunung Agung (Supreme Mountainto the Balinese what Mt. Olympus was to ancient Greece). Built on seven rising terraces, the temple dates from before the 11th Century.

Besakih, the mother temple of Bali, is called the "navel of the world" by the Balinese. Consisting of dozens of pagoda-like buildings of many sizes, the temple complex contains a shrine representing every village on the island.

The upper reaches of Gunung Agung are often shrouded in white clouds, imparting to Besakih Temple an especially lovely and mystical atmosphere. However, the mountain is still an active volcano and last erupted in 1963 covering more than one-fourth of Bali with lava. This eruption, the first since 1350 A.D., occurred during the time of the greatest of Balinese sacrifices, Eka Dasa Rudra, held only once every 100 years. Hindu priests hurled themselves into the lava, hoping to placate the angry gods, and the ceremony was held again in 1979.

The serenity and loveliness of this great temple venerating the Hindu trinity is always threatened by the gods' anger--the eruption of Gunung Agung. Thus, Besakih's spirituality has two sides, one serene and the other menacing. Pura Besakih is not conceived as program music but rather as a work evocative of this lovely and interesting place. It was begun at the MacDowell Colony in May, 1987 and completed in Chevy Chase, Maryland the following November. Composed for the Bay Area Women's Philharmonic of San Francisco, Pura Besakih was made possible by grants from the AAUW Educational Foundation, the Money for Women/Barbara Deming Memorial Fund, Inc. and Meet the Composer.

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