

Embers to Ash

Elena Specht

2016

Duration: ca. 10 minutes

In conceiving of *Embers to Ash*, I was interested in both the physical and emotional meanings of these words. Embers are the smoldering remains of a fire, while ash is the powdery residue that remains after a fire, as well as being a pale shade of gray. However, both have double meanings: embers can also refer to slowly fading emotions, memories, or relationships, and ash can mean feelings of remorse, regret, and nostalgia. Ash is also a type of tree, something alive and growing. These definitions reminded me of the mythological creature of the phoenix, a bird that is cyclically reborn from the ashes of the fire in which its previous life had ended. *Embers to Ash* is structured around these concepts: fire, decay, a gray-like stasis, and finally, a sense of rebirth and renewal. *Embers to Ash* was the winner of the 2016 CU Wind Ensemble Composition Competition and was premiered in Macky Auditorium in Boulder, CO on April 20, 2017.

Instrumentation:

Piccolo

Flute 1, 2

Oboe 1, 2

English Horn

Clarinet in Eb

Clarinet in Bb 1, 2, 3

Bass Clarinet in Bb

Bassoon 1, 2

Contrabassoon

Alto Saxophone 1, 2

Tenor Saxophone

Baritone Saxophone

Trumpet in Bb 1, 2, 3

Horn in F 1, 2, 3, 4

Trombone 1, 2

Bass Trombone

Euphonium

Tuba

Double Bass

Piano

Timpani

Percussion 1 (bass drum, tom-toms)

Percussion 2 (tam-tam, glockenspiel, suspended cymbal, wind chimes)

Percussion 3 (xylophone, chimes, snare drum)

Percussion 4 (vibraphone, marimba, crash cymbals, triangle)