

Serge Filiatreault

Satanik

for 8 Trombones

Program Note

The inspiration for *Satanik* (the main theme) came to me one day at Université de Montréal while practicing in a cubicle with an harmonium in it. I loved how the sounds would just ‘melt’ into one another, and the dissonances would sound wild and scary (hence the title).

Then, in 1982, when I moved to McGill University, Ted Griffith, my mentor, suggested I write a piece for a trombone ensemble for the ITA competition. I knew just then what melodic idea to start with.

Have you ever found yourself going into an underground parking garage and having to drive down and down and down because every level is full? That is frustrating, isn’t it?

That is the basic story for *Satanik*. The solo part isn’t really a solo, but represents the poor fellow having to find a parking spot. He goes so deep underground (Down to Hell), that he finally finds himself at the gates of Hell!

Lightning strikes (short *glissandi*), illuminating the black metal bars of the gates. Then, some kind of a push or a pull (*accelerando*) forces our poor fellow into Hell itself (Satan’s theme).

In this scenario, Hell must be taken more like a visit into an amusement park, Disneyworld for instance. Then, running like, well... Hell, he gets to see all the different attractions like the old Cathedral; the witches performing the Devil’s dance. After all that, in a moment of reflective calm, his heart starts pulsating, and stricken with panic (*Presto*), he starts running again and finds himself back at the Gates of Hell and somehow, like Jonah and the whale, he is regurgitated back out of Hell.

Enjoy!

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