

brian current composer

This Isn't Silence (1998, revised 2001)

Duration: about 11 minutes.

Instrumentation: For large orchestra: 3(picc)33basscl3/4331/perc(2), timp, piano, Strings.

Previous performances: the Indianapolis Symphony, the Oakland Symphony, the Winnipeg Symphony.

Program notes: *This Isn't Silence* was written in 1998 with assistance from the Canada Council for the Arts. The title comes from a direction in the score where, at the climax of the work, the only player with an empty bar is one of the percussionists, who needs to change instruments. In his one blank measure I found that I had written, "this isn't silence."

Press quotes:

"The orchestra flourished in Canadian composer Brian Current's *This Isn't Silence*, a mad, restless piece that poured a thousand individual gestures into a turbine that surged and braked according to the commands of an inscrutable engineer. Current, who is still in his twenties, knows how to exploit the power of a single tyrannizing element, whether it be a persistent chord or a single note that suddenly dominates the scene in every available octave. His muscular writing entertained while it shook the house with portents of powers too large for any stage."

- Robert Everett-Green, *Globe and Mail*

"The Canadian composer has given the world a large, handsomely scored piece full of ideas, colors and textures, and Morgan and the orchestra played it with obvious enthusiasm. If every new work performed in the Bay Area this season sounded this appealing, music lovers would be fortunate indeed."

- Georgia Rowe, *Contra Costa Times*

"In this composer, one senses real gifts. Current's world not only had a sound of its own, but a mind."

- James Manishen, *Winnipeg Free Press*