Relentless (for chamber orchestra)

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**Relentless**

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*Relentless*, for chamber orchestra (2 fl., 2 ob., 2 cl., 2 bsn., 2 trb., 1 tuba, 1 pno., 1 timp., 1 xyl., 1 mrb., 6 vln., 2 vla., 1 vlc., 1 d.b.) is a minimalist composition, which, in addition to the traditional repetition of patterns, is propelled forward by the superimposition of different pulses heard in different instruments in the orchestra. Timbral interplay is employed to articulate rhythmic complexity and independence. At different points in the development of the musical material, each of these pulses becomes prominent and its relationship to the other pulses causes a false impression of metric modulation. After several such "false" metric modulations, there is a real one which takes place at the climax of the work. The timpani is at the core of this central modulation. Its dotted quarter-note pulse gradually overwhelms the texture and, at the point of the metric modulation, it becomes the new tempo. As the music progresses forward, there is also a deeper kind of transformation taking place. The initial systematic approach to structure gradually yields to a more intuitive process and, by the end, it becomes quite referential, making vague and, occasionally, overt allusions to pop music from the 1960s. It is this deeper transformation from process to reference and from conceptual thinking to intuition that lies at the heart of this work’s structure.

I have always been interested in pop music and throughout my university education, I have tried to find ways of implementing the sounds and surface language of this music while retaining a more complex and rigorous rhythmic and structural control below the surface that can propel the composition forward and the listener's attention beyond the 3 - 4 minute attention span of pop music. *Relentless* represents the current stage in my quest to be able to speak both languages without compromising one for the sake of the other.
Thank you Christos Hatzis, my thesis supervisor and mentor throughout my years at the University of Toronto.
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Fl. 1

Bb Cl.

Pno.

I

II

III

Vln.

IV

V

VI

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

mf

mf

mf

mf

mf

mf

mf

mf

mf

mf

mf

mf
Relentless