

ROBERT PATERSON

TRIPLE CONCERTO, “SUMMIT”



[Teaser Video \(YouTube\)](#) • [Full Video \(YouTube\)](#) • [Audio \(SoundCloud\)](#) • [Robert Paterson](#)

“Triple Concerto is a stunning piece about climate change... Rob is a great tone painter of nature, of birds, of land and seascape, and all of that is on beautiful display in this work. At the end, the orchestra slowly exits the stage (with the woodwind “birds” singing until the last moment), leaving only the trio and conductor in silence. It is a tremendously moving piece...”

— JoAnn Falletta, Grammy® Winner, Music Director, Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra

Triple Concerto: Key Details:

- **Duration:** 30'
- *Commissioned and world premiered by the Neave Trio*
- **Instrumentation:** piano trio (violin, cello, and piano) and orchestra (2-2-2-2 / 4-2-3-1 / 3 percussion, timpani, strings)
- Sheet music available from [Bill Holab Music](#)
- **Companion piece available:** *Summit Trio*, a chamber version of the three piano trio-centric movements derived from the concerto. This piece or selected movements may be used as a “teaser” for the concerto performance
- **Themes:** birds, climate change, clock, species extinction, Haydn’s *Farewell Symphony*, mountains, nature, pastorale, sunrise, terrain, time, tone poem, tundra
- Movements II, IV, and VI also exist as a ca. 9’, stand-alone chamber work that may be performed on a chamber concert or at a fundraiser or donor event to entice audiences to hear the orchestral work
- Video slide show with still images that align with the work available upon request

Program Note

As we live through a sixth mass extinction, it is not difficult to question whether we can act as good stewards of our earth. While I often feel a sense of despair — how could we have messed this up so badly? — my thoughts are often, perhaps irrationally, tempered by a sense of optimism. Maybe we can fix this, or at least that's what I tell myself. *Triple Concerto* is essentially an exploration of these emotions. As a scenic point of departure, the entire work also uses three types of geographical regions as inspiration.

Triple Concerto (nicknamed “*Summit*” after the last movement) is structured a bit differently than a traditional concerto. An introduction and three larger movements are interspersed with three small trio-centric movements that loosely function as either a prelude, interlude, or cadenza. These three smaller movements also exist as a stand-alone version for the piano trio that may be performed as a sort of “teaser” for the concerto on a chamber music concert.

The first movement, *Introduction*, loosely evokes a sunrise. Toward the end of the movement, bird song melodies from around the world are incorporated and performed by the winds. This leads to a movement entitled *Chorale Prelude*, focusing on the piano trio, leading to a joyful third movement, *Bright Pastorale*, filled with bright, sunlit bell-like chords and sounds reminiscent of birdsong. Moments of despair begin to appear as the movement progresses. The movement ends darkly, like an overcast sky before a storm. The fourth movement, *Interlude*, echoes the beginning, focusing on the trio once again and evoking a sense of longing, the sound of a more innocent time.

Tundra, the fifth movement, is cold, dark, and bleak but with swaths of color. A sense of sadness and loneliness permeates this movement, at times represented by various mournful effects such as bent notes created by dipping tubular bells in water and glissandi in the strings and brass.

After the fifth movement, the trio performs a virtuosic *Cadenza*, full of grief and rage but with signs of hope. This leads to the final movement, entitled *Summit*. Ascending lines suggest climbing a mountain, both literally and figuratively. After a brief climax, eleven bell-like chords sound one after the other, symbolizing the chimes of the Doomsday Clock. The winds perform birdsong once again, perhaps of songbirds that may soon become endangered or even extinct. In a nod to Haydn's *Symphony No. 45* (his “Farewell Symphony”), the players leave the stage one by one until all that is left are the trio and conductor.

Triple Concerto was commissioned by the Neave Trio and premiered by the trio and Mostly Modern Orchestra, JoAnn Falletta, conductor, at Mostly Modern Festival in Saratoga Springs, NY.

– Robert Paterson

Movements:

- I. Introduction
- II. Chorale Prelude
- III. Bright Pastorale
- IV. Interlude
- V. Tundra
- VI. Cadenza
- VII. Summit

[Robert Paterson](#)

American composer Robert Paterson is a true New Yorker—born and raised in Buffalo, he lived in Rochester and Ithaca for over ten years, in New York City for over twenty years, and now lives in Saratoga Springs, near the Adirondacks. Paterson’s colorful music embraces a wide variety of themes, everything from goddesses and online dating to mathematics and the environment. His music is filled with emotion and fierce rhythmic energy, marked by elegance, wit, and meticulous craftsmanship. Named Composer of The Year by the Classical Recording Foundation at Carnegie Hall, Paterson is the winner of the Delaware Symphony’s Alfred I. DuPont Award, and his opera *Three Way* won the Grammy® under Best Classical Producer of the Year. His music is often a Best of the Year pick on America’s National Public Radio. His orchestral tone poem, *Dark Mountains*, regularly airs on NPR’s Performance Today. *Three Way* premiered with Nashville Opera, then BAM (Brooklyn Academy of Music), and across the United States. Minnesota Orchestra, Louisville Orchestra, The Oratorio Society of New York, Buffalo Philharmonic, Albany Pro Musica, Albany Symphony, Musica Sacra, Austin Symphony, Vermont Symphony, and ensembles worldwide perform his works. Paterson gives masterclasses at the Curtis Institute of Music, New York University, the Aspen Music Festival, the Cleveland Institute of Music, and more. He is the Artistic Director and house composer for Mostly Modern Projects. Robert is a lifelong vegan and an advocate for animals and the environment, celebrating the natural world with ground-breaking works such as his *Triple Concerto*, *A New Earth*, *Listen*, and *I Go Among Trees*.

Robert Paterson’s publishing agent for worldwide rentals, sales,
dramatic licensing agreements, and commissions:

[Bill Holab Music](#)

Press Quotes

Robert Paterson

“Fast, furious, and laced through
with sardonic wit... Gloriously entertaining.”

– **Musical America**

“tautly scored with vivid contrasts and soaring
lines, the work proved a highlight of the program.”

– **The New York Times**

Paterson provides a vast timbral playground... a
satisfying arc of a well-conceived structure.”

– **Gramophone**

A modern-day master”

– **AXS.com**

“Triadic harmonies here had a new sound and its
balances were artful.”

– **Classical Voice America**



PROGRAMMING SUGGESTIONS

Pastoral Scenes

TCHAIKOVSKY – *The Storm* [14']
ROBERT PATERSON – *Triple Concerto, "Summit"* [30']
Intermission
L.V. BEETHOVEN – *Symphony No. 6, "Pastoral"* [40']
Total Duration: 84'

Mountains

ROBERT PATERSON – *Dark Mountains* [14']
ROBERT PATERSON – *Triple Concerto, "Summit"* [30']
Intermission
RICHARD STRAUSS – *An Alpine Symphony* [55']
Total Duration: 85'

Works by Robert Paterson

ROBERT PATERSON – *Dark Mountains* [14']
ROBERT PATERSON – *Triple Concerto, "Summit"* [30']
Intermission
ROBERT PATERSON – *A New Earth* (orchestra, narrator and choir) [38']
Total Duration: 82'

Nature/Birds

ARNOLD BAX – *November Woods* [19']
FREDERICK DELIUS – *2 Pieces for Small Orchestra* (12')
ROBERT PATERSON – *Triple Concerto, "Summit"* [30']
Intermission
OTTORINO RESPIGHI – *Pines of Rome* [22']
Total Duration: 83'

Tone Poems: Oceans

GUSTAV HOLST – *Egdon Heath* [13']
ROBERT PATERSON – *Triple Concerto, "Summit"* [30']
Intermission
ETHEL SMYTH – *On the Cliffs of Cornwall* [8']
CLAUDE DEBUSSY – *La mer* [25']
Total Duration: 76'

Tone Poems: Land and Sea

GUSTAV HOLST – *Egdon Heath* [13']
ZYGMUNT NOSKOWSKI – *Morskie Oko, Op. 19* [14']
ROBERT PATERSON – *Triple Concerto, "Summit"* [30']
Intermission
ELINOR REMICK WARREN – *Crystal Lake* [8']
CLAUDE DEBUSSY – *La mer* [25']
Total Duration: 90'

Images from World Premiere

[Robert Paterson](#) • [Triple Concerto World Premiere Images](#)

