

DMA Brass Dissertation Prospectus – Jason M. Johnston
Proposal for Performance Dissertation Project 5 (TMUS 8259) – Research Lecture
to be presented at the 2014 International Horn Society Western Horn Symposium

- I. Working Title:** The Brass Chamber Music of Andy Wolfe: The Exponential Influence on Brass Performance and Composition by Colorado Composer, Andy Wolfe.
- II. Proposed Topic:** To present the performance and biographical information on the composer with subsequent background describing his compositional influence throughout the Rocky Mountain Front Range as a composer and performer. The bulk of the lecture will pertain to descriptive harmonic and orchestrational analysis by presenting several different compositional styles and techniques in Andy's brass chamber repertoire through demonstration and discussion. I will end the lecture by presenting a new composition I commissioned Andy to write for the symposium for Horn, Trombone and Piano.
- III. Purpose/Justification:** The piece commissioned for the symposium was done partly with the help of the Mier Rimón Commissioning Fund through the International Horn Society. I perused the past winners of this grant and there were no past winners with the instrumentation chosen for this project. Although, there is literature out there for Horn, Trombone and Piano, I found it necessary to ask Andy to write for this particular instrumentation due to his expertise not only as a trombone player but also his wonderful ability to write for the brass family. He is very special at what he does which is justification enough to further serve my purpose as an performer and pedagogue by helping bring new and exciting literature to the brass world.
- IV. Methodology**
 - a. Timeframe:** This project began in August of 2013 starting as a discussion between myself and Dr. John Neurhor. We are looking to put together a cd project and decided that Andy needed to be a part of this work. After approaching Andy and getting the green light I decided that the best way to present this project would be as a research lecture at the International Horn Society Western Horn Symposium on March 8, 2014.
 - b. A detailed description of how you will proceed:** In order to present at the symposium I will write a grant for the commission, put together a topic synopsis, and get approval from the International Horn Society Advisory Council. During this process will interview Andy Wolfe in order to get his background, get a hold of several pieces to analyze, and retrieve any other pertinent information he feels would be necessary to best portray his compositional palate.

- c. **Description of the anticipated structure of the project:** The lecture will be in three parts. The first part will be an overall biographical description of the composer himself. It will involve a description of his performance background and how he and I collaborated together in past projects. The second will engage in Andy's brass chamber works with a description of what he has written using audio examples of pieces I have recorded with the Denver Brass, live audio examples I have extracted from several works using piano (by Hsiao-Ling Lin), live demonstrations using trombone (by John Neurhor), and live demonstrations using horn. The third section will go into my analysis of several of Andy's works concerning rhythm, harmony and orchestration. The lecture will end with the world premier of *Triptych for Horn, Trombone and Piano*.
- d. **Working outline:**
 - i. Introduction: The chamber music of Andy Wolfe
 - ii. Biographical Information
 - 1. Performance
 - 2. Compositional
 - iii. Andy's Brass Chamber Music
 - iv. Analysis Discussion
 - 1. Rhythm
 - a. Syncopation and Hemiola
 - b. Metric Modulation
 - 2. Harmony
 - a. Functional Hierarchy
 - i. Non functional vs. functional
 - b. Tertiary Relationships
 - 3. Orchestration
 - a. Idiomatic Part Writing
 - b. Form
 - c. Composing for Brass
 - v. Premier

V. Working Bibliography:

- a. *Elation and Agitation*
- b. *Ascent*
- c. *Cave of Souls*
- d. *Fanfare for the Brave*
- e. *Overture for a New Day*
- f. *They Gave All*