

ABSTRACT

-MASTER RESEARCH-

Name:

Johan Smeulders

Main Subject:

The success of a chosen key in a symphonic transcription

Research Supervisor:

Suzan Overmeer

Research Question:

What makes a symphonic transcription (for Concertband, Fanfare and Brassband) of one of the Great Masters from the 19th century successful?

Summary of Results:

The success of a chosen key in a symphonic transcription depends on several thoughts from arrangers and composers. It's possible to choose any kind of key for a symphonic transcription but the choice has always consequences. For example, the chosen key has consequences for the amount of sharps and flats in the scores for the different instruments. Another very important consequence while a key is chosen is the choice for the solo parts in a Transcription. Every instrument has its limitations within a chosen key because of the "limited" register for a particular solo instrument. The hard part in my research is the question: "What is success"? And how is it possible to define "success"? When a different key, another key what's written in the original composition, is chosen some people will say the "color" of the composition has also changed. Some people say they can feel and hear it but as we all know a lot of thoughts in music are subjective. So how can we define the success when a lot of things are subjective? What's good, better or wrong? Luckily I have found some measurable facts to define the success of a symphonic transcription.

My main conclusion, at this moment, is that the success of a symphonic transcription is based on several choices. First you'll need to choose a key for the transcription what fits the ensemble in a natural way. When this key is chosen with knowledge about the limitations of the ensemble the transcription has to be instrumented in a high level of craftsmanship.

Biography:

My name is Johan Smeulders. I finished my first Bachelor degree in 2011 as a Classical Music Euphonium player at the Fontys conservatoire in Tilburg. After this study I came studying at the Royal Conservatoire in The Hague where I finished my Bachelor degree of conducting arts in 2015. In September 2015 I started with the Master course at the same conservatoire. In January of 2017 I had my Final Master Examn with the "Marinierskapel der Koninklijke Marine". At this moment I am the principal conductor of two fanfare bands and two concertbands in the south of the Netherlands. I also work as an arranger and as professional euphonium player.