

MATTHEW DeCHANT PRESENTS

ANTONINE

FOR SOLO TROMBONE AND FIXED MEDIA

Estimated performance time: 4:57

Antonine is a musical embodiment of the ancient philosophical concept of the “fortress of the mind.” As Roman-emperor-turned-philosopher Marcus Aurelius put it in his *Meditations*: “The mind, unconquered by violent passions, is a citadel, for a man has no fortress more impregnable in which to find refuge and remain safe forever.” Or, more simply put by Seneca the Younger: “To bear trials with a calm mind robs misfortune of its strength and burden.” The piece uses a neoclassical trombone solo to represent strength and steadfastness in the face of an often-terrifying and overwhelming sound collage born out of our modern world. Everyday noises like cell phones, cars, and news reports are transformed into a soundscape that grows out of the noise of everyday life, and then recedes back into it, proving that philosophy is just as essential in our time as it was in Marcus Aurelius’. Composed in the spring of 2020, *Antonine*’s title is both an adjective that means “relating to Marcus Aurelius” and a reference to the Antonine Plague that afflicted his reign, once again highlighting the parallels between his time and ours, and the continued value of philosophy in everyday life.

NOTE ABOUT TECHNOLOGY

The trombone part and the fixed media track are to start at the same time, but there is no exact metronomic interaction between the two, so exact time coordination is not needed.

Solo Trombone

ANTONINE

For solo trombone and fixed media

Matthew DeChant

Expansive ♩ = 100

13

mp *f* *mf* *poco detache* *poco rit.*

0:46 Steadfast ♩ = 80 poco legato

20

f (tornado siren) *poco rit.* (crowd chatter) 1:10 a tempo

25

29

33

(police siren)

38

1:46

43

poco rit. 2:11 a tempo (distorted trombones)

47

ff

52

53

54

55

(*distorted trombones end*)

57 

68 **3:11**

Musical notation for measures 68-71. Measure 68: Bass clef, quarter note G2, quarter note A2, quarter note B2, quarter note C3. Measure 69: Quarter note D3, quarter note E3, quarter note F3, quarter note G3. Measure 70: Quarter note A3, quarter note B3, quarter note C4, quarter note D4. Measure 71: Quarter note E4, quarter note F4, quarter note G4, quarter note A4.

72 

75 

79



83

Musical notation for measures 83-87. The notation is on a single staff with a bass clef. It features a series of eighth and sixteenth notes, often beamed together, with some notes having slurs or ties. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The melody is: 83: G2, A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, F#3, G3; 84: A3, B3, C4, D4, E4, F#4, G4; 85: A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F#5, G5; 86: A5, B5, C6, D6, E6, F#6, G6; 87: A6, B6, C7, D7, E7, F#7, G7.

 $dim.$

88 *tr* **4:14**

(dim.) ----- *mp*

94

94