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### **Violin Concerto** “All’ombra de’ cipressi” (24’) solo violin & strings

Dedicated to violinist **Marc Djokic**, this five-movement concerto draws inspiration from two Venetians: Vivaldi & the poet Ugo Foscolo.

“Cette musique résolument moderne nous amène sur des terres totalement inconnues...Les couleurs sont fortes, éclectiques, surprenantes...”

—L. Langis, [patwhite.com](http://patwhite.com)

“...a concerto that pushes the technical boundaries of the violin, but not without the intention of expression and colour.”

—Marc Djokic, interview in *ludwig van Toronto*

### **Whirlwind (8’)** 2(II=Picc)222/4231/timp+2perc/hp/str

“...clever and evocative...”

—Richard Todd, *Ottawa Citizen*

Dazzling & colourful, nimble yet expansive, inspired by the flocking flight of Bohemian waxwings.

Narrated slideshow by the composer, “Inside the Composer’s Workshop: Whirlwind: From Sketch to Score,” on the making-of with over 12,000 [youtube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...) views.

### **Achilles & Scamander (8’)** 2(II=Picc)222/4231/timp+2perc/hp/str

Dramatic & powerful, after a battle episode in Homer’s *The Iliad*.

“...positive, upfront writing, with no postmodern baloney of any kind. Yes, you can program Canadian music and make it work.”

—A. Kaptainis, *Montreal Gazette*

“...œuvre spectaculaire...”

—Christophe Huss, *Le Devoir*

*The Fury of Achilles* by Charles-Antoine Coypel

### **Lullaby (5’)** 2222/4200/1perc/hp/cel/str

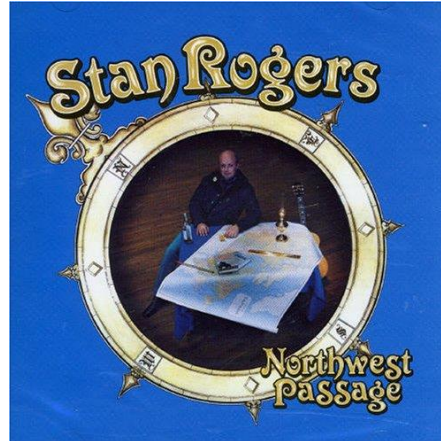
“...gentle textures and flowing themes occasionally yield surprising harmonic turns and briskly changing meters.”

—Allan Kozinn, *New York Times*

“...a work of quiet rapture and refined sensibility...elegant concision...”

—Jack Sullivan,  
*American Record Guide*

Performed at Carnegie Hall by the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra. Released on CD. Video [interview](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...).



## Symphony No. 2 “Water” (24’)

2(II=Picc)222/4231/timp+2perc/hp/str

In three movements that evoke the Canadian west coast: expansive ocean, delicate rainforest & thundering waterfalls. Narrated [slideshow](#) by the composer.

*“...this new symphony paints moods...The opening movement plants itself firmly in the American 20th-century symphonic tradition, its longer, noble theme, more colour than melody, reminiscent of, say, Hanson—and all firmly tonal. Similarly, the dance-like opening of the final movement recalls Copland...The second movement...concentrates on texture and colour, and as such is effective and appealing, with lovely effects at the end, as the rain drops whisper into nothing.”*

—Mark Morris, **Edmonton Journal**

## Northwest Passage Variations (12’)

2(II=Picc)222/4231/timp+1perc/str

Twelve meditations on the popular, sweeping tune by Canadian folk legend **Stan Rogers**.

*“...stirring and dramatic...”*

—Brendan Shand, **sudbury.com**

*“Rival chose to follow the tradition of folk-songs variations pioneered by such English composers as Vaughan Williams...a brass band gave us the tune, and thereafter the ghost of the sea-shanty underpinned the variations. Undulations of the sea were effectively evoked by rising and falling strings. A solo violin variation was played with feeling by Robert Uchida, and the variations ended with a hymn-like rendition of the tune.”*

—Mark Morris, **Edmonton Journal**

## Scherzo “Crème brûlée” (7’)

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Haydn was famous for his musical wit. Mozart revelled in a silly tune. Even Beethoven found time for a good musical joke. *Scherzo* (Italian for “joke”) is Rival’s idea of fun.

The piece begins and ends with the same frenetic music whose spiky theme is transformed, in the middle, into a suave waltz. Like **crème brûlée**, hard and crunchy on the outside, soft and creamy on the inside.

## Spring (8’)

strings

Performed coast to coast, from the Victoria Symphony to the Hamilton Philharmonic to Symphony Nova Scotia.

*“...vividly evoked memories of a young (and foolish) Danny Gaisin kayaking down New York’s Ausable River during the early melting snow run-off. The echoing through the chasm; the brief calmness where the river eddies and then the rush of the rapids all were inferred within the music.”*

—D. Gaisin, **Ontario Arts Review**

*Spring Walk* by Chantal-Andrée Samson