

More About FIRE DANCE

There has been a long tradition of transcribing orchestral works for concert band, and I have done this with several of my own orchestra compositions, including this one. Here is its story:

This composition is a transcription of my **Fire Dance for Violin and Orchestra**, which was written in 2023 in response to an invitation from PARMA Recordings, sent to me and several other of their composers, to compose a five-minute work for violin and orchestra to be recorded by soloist Davide Alogna on a historic Stradivarius violin with the London Symphony Orchestra, which it was the following year. The theme of the resulting award-winning album, titled **Symphonic Stradivarius**, was that the music carry some kind of an environmental message.

There is no soloist in the band transcription, but it is my only work for band that includes a piano, which has a fairly prominent part.

Fire Dance has 3 sections, following an A-B-A or simple ternary form:

1. *Furious* 2. *Contemplative* 3. *Tempo I*

The title might encourage the listener to conjure up visions of a primitive tribal fire ritual, or possibly an entertaining dance performance with fiery hoops and batons. Both are valid reactions and neither of these interpretations would expect a specific program in the music.

But an environmental theme can be discerned in the composition by interpreting the opening section as depicting a “furious” wildfire, while the quiet middle section “contemplates” the scene of devastation left behind in the fire’s wake with idyllic memories of what it was like before the fire. The final section would recall the fire’s fury and serve as a warning for the future if something isn’t done soon to combat wildfire-causing climate change.