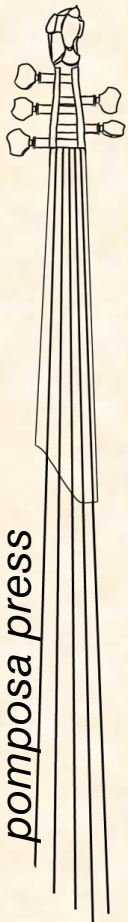


To Armgard Haken

**RUDOLF
HAKEN**

**“GALÁPAGOS”
FOR 5-STRING VIOLA
AND ORCHESTRA**

E $\flat$ ALTO SAXOPHONE



pomposa press

GALÁPAGOS - Instrumentation

solo five-string viola

1 piccolo

2 flutes

2 b-flat clarinets

1 bass clarinet

1 alto sax

1 baritone sax

1 contrabassoon

1 tuba

timpani (4)

percussion 1: snare drum (with snare throughout) / 2 bongos (high & low) / ocean drum

percussion 2: (triangle / bass drum)

percussion 3: (crash cymbal / suspended cymbal (with brush) / 2 large ratchets / woodblocks)

percussion 4: (chimes / tamtam)

organ

violas

cellos

basses

Galápagos was premiered Feb. 19, 2005 by Rudolf Haken, five-string viola with Ian Hobson conducting the Sinfonia da Camera at the Krannert Center, Urbana, Illinois. It has also been used as the soundtrack for Jaime Moss' video *Galápagos*.

Following are program notes from the 2005 performance:

RUDOLF HAKEN – GALÁPAGOS: An evolutionary new work for five-string viola and orchestra

dedicated to my sister Armgard

The inspiration for this tone poem is Kurt Vonnegut's novel *Galápagos*, written in 1985. The novel opens in the year 1986, when nearly all human life is succumbing to natural and man-made catastrophes. The evolution of our species begins anew through a handful of survivors on Santa Rosalía, the fictional northernmost of the Galápagos Islands. In the span of one million years, humankind evolves into a species of furry fisherfolk with flippers instead of hands. The skull has become streamlined for more efficient swimming, necessitating a reduction in brain size. The proverbial Fish With Legs has been replaced by the Human With Flippers.

The million-year-old ghost who narrates the story makes a wry comment when characters pass away: "Oh well, he wasn't going to write Beethoven's Ninth Symphony anyway." This saying originated on the fronts during the First World War. In the novel, the cruelty of the epitaph is heightened by the fact that the very concept of a symphony soon disappears from the cultural memory, and Beethoven is quickly forgotten. For that matter, by the millionth year, humans have lost even the concept of the number Nine.

The seafarers who arrive on Santa Rosalía in 1986 have a handheld computer called Mandarax, which stores a vast amount of scientific and cultural information, and is in fact the only remaining record of the great achievements of humankind. In the year 2016, three decades after starting a new life on the island, the Captain flies into in a rage and flings Mandarax into the ocean. A woman, desperate to save this trove of human knowledge, jumps in after Mandarax. Both woman and Mandarax are instantly eaten by a great white shark. (A few minutes later the Captain, attempting to escape a flock of harmless vampire finches, jumps into the water and is eaten by a hammerhead shark.)

The first person born on Santa Rosalía is entirely covered with fur, due to a mutation acquired when her grandparents suffered radiation poisoning after the bombing of Hiroshima. This furry child and her descendants have a greater chance of survival in the equatorial sun and the cold waters than do the other humans on the island. Thus, the despicable dropping of an atomic bomb finally serves its stated purpose of saving the human race.

By the end of the novel, humans live in balance with nature. Mother Earth has been allowed to flower again, and there are no more wars. But then, no-one is going to write Beethoven's Ninth Symphony anymore.

Listeners will note several musical quotations in my work. When I began working on *Galápagos*, I heard songs playing on my children's computer in the next room. My composition began to incorporate what I was hearing, including the Macintosh startup sound with which the piece begins.

My tone poem is cast as the final memorial service for Beethoven's Ninth Symphony. The shadows of humanity have yet again gathered to mourn. Bells signify the 11th hour. The congregation is offered a final Visitation with Beethoven's Ninth. The organ plays a Grand Chorale.

An intruder interrupts the proceedings. It is the Soloist. The congregation turns to him, demanding answers. The Soloist spoils the reverent mood of the proceedings. He tells the congregation Beethoven's Ninth Symphony died when Humanity fed it to a great white shark. Instead of exalting the beauty of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, the Soloist presents a slideshow of Humanity's destructive side: Here we see those big-brained homo sapiens sapiens, declaring themselves Champions of the World, and treating the world accordingly. And there they are, bombing each other's cities. Now watch them dance while Rome burns. And there goes Beethoven's Ninth Symphony into the belly of the great white shark. Then we see the vampire finches and the hammerhead shark making meals of humans.

As sad as all this is, a miraculous transformation occurs in the congregation. All those who had entered whispering evil gossip about each other now leave the chapel smiling kindly. All the minds which used to be filled with complicated big-brained thoughts and worries are now clear-headed, with nothing bigger to process than finding a bite to eat. By the end of the service, nobody feels sad about the symphony anymore. Nobody is even sure what they were doing in the chapel. This was definitely the last memorial service ever for Beethoven's Ninth Symphony.

Quietly and unceremoniously, Beethoven's Ninth whisps away into the Afterlife, with one last happy backward glance.

RUDOLF HAKEN GALAPAGOS

All cues are in concert pitch.

cues

bass winds strings, tuba himes strings, tuba

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

Maestoso $\text{♩} = 76$

alto sax

p *ppp*

13

cues

organ

13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21

22

22 23 24 25 26

timp. vla pomposa

27 28

29 30 31 32 33

agitato 116

orch

vla.

ff

34 35

ff

f molto stacc.

36 37 38

39 40 41 42 43

Meno mosso 100

sax

viola pomposa

ff unison with bari sax

ff

44 45 46 47 48 49 50

cadenza - molto rubato

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106 organ
106 **Allegro** ♩=152
107 108 109 110 111 112
bass clarinet
fff

113 piccolo
113 114 115
cbsn, tuba
116 117 118

119 viola pomposa
119 120 121 122 123 124 125 126 127 128
Andante ♩=88
accel. ♩=100 ♩=108 ♩=120
mp mf

129 130 131 132 133 134 135 136
orch. GP
♩=132
f ff

137 viola pomposa
137 138 139 140 141
Molto meno mosso ♩=88
Vivo ♩=138

142
pic&fl vla pomp
142 143
Moderato ♩=116
viola pomposa
144 145 146 147

148
148 149
piccolo 150 151
bari sax 152 153
strings 154
155 156
allargando
flt.
pp *fff*

157
157 158 159 160
Moderato ♩=108
clar. vla pomposa
161 162 163
pp dolce

164
164 165 166
winds
bring out!
solo
mp with cl. 2 & bass cl. - Three instruments at equal volume

167
167 168 169
pic, vla pomposa
organ
f *pp*

170 171 172 173 174

viola pomposa

mf

175 176 177 178 179 180

Meno mosso ♩=96

p *f*

181 182 183 184

piccolo

flute 1

185 186

clarinet sax tuba ctnsn

p

187 188 189

viola pomposa