**Dance to Freedom** arose from the orchestrations I made for Phelelani Mnomiya's cantata 'Zizi Lethu' -a celebration of ten years of democracy in South Africa. 'Zizi Lethu' was premiered in Durban in November 2004 and performed in London by two South African choirs accompanied by the LPO and Kwa-Zulu Natal Phil in a concert at the Barbican, as well as a performance given by the latter orchestra in Bremen.

One of the choruses in 'Zizi Lethu' was an arrangement of the songs of struggle, entitled 'Awomzabalazo'. Mnomiya's original compilation was short and to the point. He gave the songs to the piano and the choir the 'role' of commentator. In my original orchestration of 'Awomzabolazo', I expanded his musical structure, playing on the idea of time passing, the loneliness of exile in foreign cities with distant clocks chiming the hours (tubular bells and harp), resistance fighters lying low in rural areas with the buzz of electric pylons above (string harmonics), and the sands of time slipping away as prisoners dug away on Robben Island (congas).

One of the freedom songs Mnomiya chose for 'Awomzabalazo' has words that roughly translate as 'Beware, Verwoerd!' In spite of the use of the imperative, this song has a particularly haunting melody, which led me to evolve a structured fantasia around it, which I called 'Dance to Freedom'. 'Dance to Freedom' embodies the musical spirit of 'Awomzabalazo', but it has a wider sweep than the choral piece with orchestra. All the familiar freedom songs are here, minus the choir, with 'Bhasobha, Velevoed' dominating proceedings. The music is imbued with a sense of the dance -a dance from the past towards a hopefully more positive future. I have retained -with Mnomiya's permission- the simple direct harmonies of his arrangements, not least those of the all-pervasive 'Bhasobha, Velevoed', and have used repetition rather than musical development to give the music an African feel.

J.S.

Duration: 7-8 minutes

## DANCE TO FREEDOM

OPUS 46









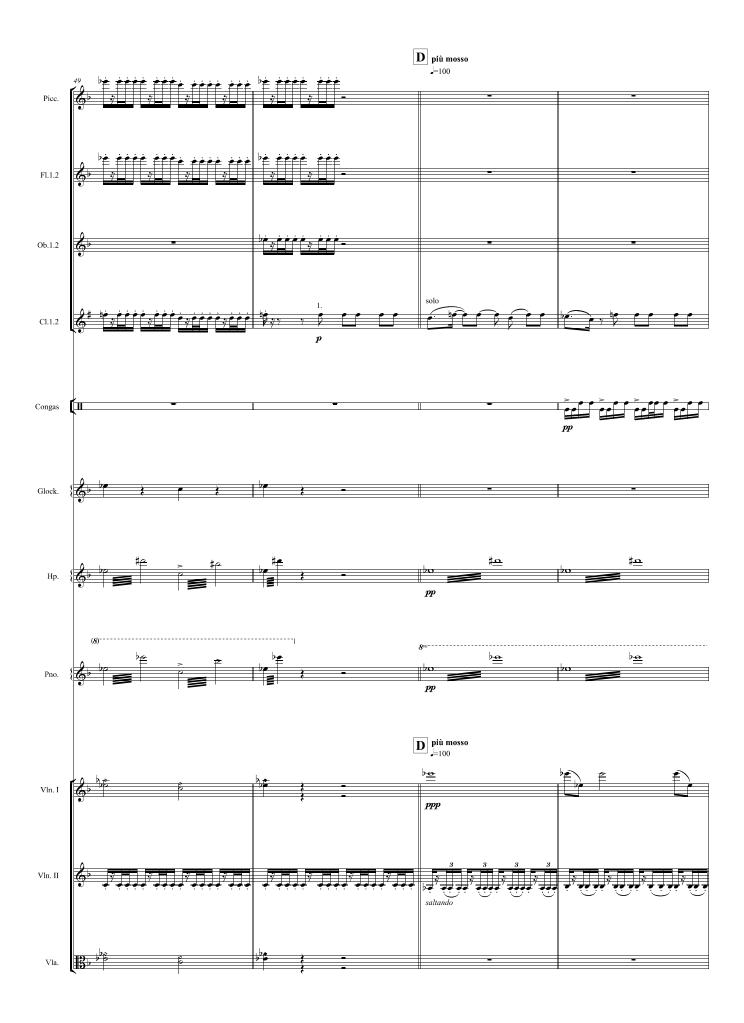


















































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