

Bass Clarinet Double Concerto

My basic idea when I conceived of the *Bass Clarinet Double Concerto* was of Weber's clarinet concertos meeting heavy metal. Both of these repertoires have been important influences on me. On the one hand, I have spent many hours over the years practicing Weber's clarinet concertos and have always enjoyed the virtuosic, playful flashiness of these pieces. On the other, I have been a fan since middle school of Guns N' Roses, Metallica, and other hard rock and heavy metal bands, and I already had experience channeling heavy metal through the bass clarinet as a member of the Edmund Welles bass clarinet quartet. When it came to writing a bass clarinet double concerto, it thus seemed logical (to me) to try to combine the heaviness and raw power of heavy metal with the dancing virtuosity and lyricism of Weber's concertos. While the resulting piece doesn't necessarily borrow explicitly from either heavy metal or Weber, the underlying spirit of the work – a mixture of heavy, driving grooves, virtuosically dancing lines, and tender lyricism – comes from the combination of these two sources. The piece was composed for my bass clarinet duo Sqwonk, and premiered in December 2007 by Sqwonk and the San Francisco Composers' Chamber Orchestra. I arranged the piece for wind band for a performance at the 2012 ClarinetFest in Lincoln, NE.