

Fanfare for Varèse

When the Empyrean Ensemble asked me to write a fanfare to open their 2007-2008 season, I was thrilled to learn that Edgard Varèse's *Octandre* would be a featured piece on the program and that I would be writing for the same instrumentation (except with a tuba in place of Varèse's double bass). I have twice performed *Octandre* and have long been thrilled by the work's sheer delight in raw, visceral sound. I determined to incorporate some of the spirit of that work into my own composition, but to filter it through my own post-minimalist sensibility.

Fanfare for Varèse begins with a noisy double-tonguing trumpet proclamation and a quick succession of ornery, spiky, Varèseian motives that are subsequently juxtaposed with one another in different ways. After a series of false starts, interruptions, and excursions, the various motives eventually coalesce into an increasingly funky groove, culminating in a final return of the opening trumpet lick.