Michael Chipchak



2 Piccolo Flute 1 Flute 2 Oboe Clarinet 1 in B Clarinet 2 in B Clarinet 3 in B Bass Clarinet in B Bassoon Alto Saxophone in Eb Tenor Saxophone in Bb Baritone Saxophone in Eb Trumpet 1 in B♭ Trumpet 2 in B♭ Trumpet 3 in B♭ Horn 1 in F Horn 2 in F Trombone 1 Trombone 2 Trombone 3 Euphonium Tuba Timpani Percussion 1: **Tubular Bells** Glockenspiel Xylophone Percussion 2:

Percussion 3:

Snare Drum

Triangle (medium, if possible)
Bass Drum, 2 mallets with towel
Slapstick
Crash Cymbals



"Grand Mal" is an evocative and impressionistic composition designed for wind ensemble, incorporating rich programmatic elements. This piece aims to convey the intense and multifaceted experience of a Grand Mal seizure through music.

The term "Grand Mal" refers to a type of generalized tonic-clonic seizure, characterized by a loss of consciousness and severe muscle contractions. In this work, the composer seeks to immerse listeners in the profound and tumultuous journey of such an episode.

The composition unfolds in a series of interconnected musical sections that mirror the stages of a Grand Mal seizure. It begins with a calm, almost foreboding introduction that builds a sense of impending turmoil. This is followed by a series of dramatic and dissonant passages that represent the onset of the seizure, capturing the sudden and uncontrollable nature of the episode.

As the piece progresses, listeners are taken through the chaotic and disorienting experience of the seizure itself, depicted through intense rhythmic shifts and powerful dynamic contrasts. The music explores the struggle and intensity of the convulsions, creating a visceral and emotional portrayal of the physical and psychological effects on the individual.

In the latter part of the composition, the tone shifts towards a more reflective and subdued atmosphere, representing the aftermath of the seizure. This section delves into the recovery and the complex emotions experienced during this time, offering a sense of resolution and contemplation.

Through its vivid and expressive musical language, "Grand Mal" not only seeks to capture the essence of a Grand Mal seizure but also to foster empathy and understanding for those who live with this condition. The piece challenges performers and audiences alike to engage with the profound and often misunderstood experiences associated with epilepsy.

Michael Chipchak (b. 1999) is a composer, vocalist, and multi-instrumentalist currently pursuing his Masters of Music Composition at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. He is an active member of New Music Chicago and is always looking for performance oppurtunities within the midwestern United States

Diagnosed with epilepsy at age 19, Chipchak's journey with the condition profoundly shaped his musical identity. As a contemporary-style composer, he draws inspiration from avant-garde and counterculture movements of the 20th century, influenced notably by figures such as Claude Debussy, John Cage, and Samuel Barber. Chipchak's compositions explore impressionistic, dissonant, and pointillistic sounds, often weaving programmatic themes that connect bodily reactions to mental and physical health through music.

Grand Mal

For Wind Ensemble Michael Chipchak **Strolling** J = 100Flute 1 Flute 2 Oboe Clarinet 1 in B♭ Clarinet 2 in B Clarinet 3 in B Bass Clarinet in B Alto Saxophone in E Strolling J = 100Trumpet 1 in B Trumpet 2 in B♭ Trumpet 3 in $B \flat$ Horn 1 in F Trombone 2 Strolling J = 100

























































