

# ***Eris* (2007)**

*For orchestra*

By Abigail Richardson

Duration: 6 minutes.

2222 4331 timpani +3, harp, piano, strings

Percussion I:

Crotales, Xylophone, Glockenspiel (shared with percussion II)

Percussion II:

Glockenspiel (shared with perc. I), Vibraphone, Tam Tam, Wood Block (shared with perc. III)

Percussion III:

Triangle, Wood Block, Wind Chimes, Suspended Cymbal, Bass Drum, Snare Drum, Bell Tree

This piece is about the recently discovered planetoid *Eris*. At the start of the piece, the cold, icy nature of this celestial sphere is pictured. Before long, the turbulence of the ancient Greek mythology of *Eris*, the goddess of discord and strife, begins. She is quite a troublemaker and as a result, is not invited to the wedding of Peleus and Thetis, the parents of Achilles. She is bitter and casts a "Golden Apple" into the party. The apple has an inscription: "*To the Fairest One*". As intended, competition begins between the present goddesses. It is upon the Prince of Troy to choose the fairest one. Three contenders immediately try to bribe him: Athena promises skill in battle, Aphrodite offers love, Hera offers political power. The Prince gives the apple to Aphrodite, dooming his city to be soon destroyed in the Trojan War. This music narrates the story, with a glimpse of the golden apple between each offered bribe. The piece finishes as war begins.

Abigail Richardson was born in Oxford, England and moved to Canada as a child. Ironically, she was diagnosed completely and incurably deaf at the age of five. Upon moving to Canada, her hearing was fully intact within months. She received her *Bachelor of Music* from the University of Calgary and her *Masters* and *Doctorate* degrees from the University of Toronto. Her music has been played at the Festival Présences of Paris, Winnipeg New Music Festival, Newfoundland Sound Symposium, Ottawa Chamber Music Festival, Festival of the Sound, etc. Abigail won the first Karen Kieser Prize for Canadian music and the Canadian Music Centre Prairie Region award. Most significantly, she was awarded the top prize for composers under 30 at the prestigious International Rostrum of Composers in Paris. Her music is now being broadcast in 35 countries. She has been commissioned by such groups as the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, Victoria Symphony, Radio France, Tapestry New Opera, New Music Concerts, Theatre Direct Canada, Southern Ontario Chamber Music Institute, Talisker Players, Festival Winds, etc. Abigail is affiliate composer with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra.

This piece was commissioned by the Toronto Symphony Orchestra with assistance from the Ontario Arts Council.



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