

# ***The Sleeping Giant* (2007)**

*For orchestra*

By Abigail Richardson

Duration: 5 minutes.

2222 4231 timpani +2, strings

Percussion I:

Crotales, Glockenspiel, Slapstick, Thundersheet

Percussion II:

Feng Luo, North American Tom Tom (or appropriate substitute), Bass Drum, Triangle, Suspended Cymbal

After CBC's recent "Seven Wonders of Canada" competition, I was quite taken with the support of the Thunder Bay community for the Sleeping Giant. I decided to write this piece for the legend. Here is the story: Nanabosho the giant and son of the West wind was a hero to the Ojibwe tribe for saving them from the Sioux. One day he scratched a rock and discovered silver. Nanabosho knew the white men would take over the land for this silver so he swore his tribe to secrecy and buried the silver. One of the chieftains decided to make himself silver weapons and was soon after killed by the Sioux. He must have passed along the silver secret as several days later a Sioux warrior was spotted in a canoe leading two white men towards the silver. Nanabosho disobeyed the Great Spirit and raised a storm which killed the men. As punishment he was turned to stone and lies watching over his silver secret.

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 for their Northern Residency in Thunder Bay.

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