Romp

Romp has the effect of luring the listener in with the playfulness implied in its title only to take us on a brief intense and driving excursion. The piece creates tension between the D ostinato that propels the piece forward and melodic and harmonic forays that attempt to it pull away from its tonal and rhythmic center. The punch line of this 'romp' is that the locomotion in D never flags. It moves from the left hand bass realm into center range for the right hand but always keeps its force at any dynamic. There are melodic echoes of Milhaud and Copland against Alexander's subtle and surprising rhythms that manipulate and shift our expectations from where we thought our ears wanted to go into the world of not knowing what's ahead. It is mesmerizing and compelling music.

Duration: ca. 7 min.

About the Composer

Lorin Alexander, a native of Los Angeles, began composing at the age of eight, shortly after beginning piano lessons. As a teen, she studied composition with Roy Harris. She went on to receive her Bachelor and Master's Degrees in Piano Performance at the USC School of Music. After graduation, she continued composition studies with Walter Scharff at UCLA, and orchestration with Albert Harris.

A composer of orchestral, chamber music and solo works, she is the recipient of several commissions by new music groups. Her music has been praised for being "lyrical, rhythmically driven" and for "using the colors of the orchestra brilliantly." Woodwind Quintet, originally commissioned by the Great Notes ensemble in 2001, has been performed by several ensembles, most recently by the Calico Winds. Prologue for orchestra was commissioned by Ransom Wilson to open the New Music Concert at the Idyllwild Arts Academy in 2002. It was performed by the Redlands Symphony Orchestra to open their concert season in 2004-2005 and by the Santa Cruz Symphony as the opening of their 2006-2007 season. Ms. Alexander lives in Idyllwild, a mountain community outside of Los Angeles, where she teaches and composes.