

The Sam Houston State University Symphony Orchestra  
Carol Smith, conductor  
Rod Cannon, percussion soloist

**Dialogues** for Percussion Soloist and Orchestra by Fisher Tull

- I. Andante
- II. Allegro molto
- III. Lento
- IV. Vivo

Program Notes

Fisher Tull's *Dialogues for Multiple Percussion Soloist and Orchestra* was commissioned by Steve Houghton who premiered the work with the San Antonio Symphony Orchestra on November 18, 1988. The concerto was to display Houghton's virtuosity performing on a variety of percussion instruments in a constant dialogue with the orchestra.

The work is set in four movements which are played without pause. In the first movement, featuring the soloist on vibraphone, gongs, crotales and timpani, the melodic and harmonic materials which permeate the entire work are introduced. A cadenza for timpani allows for improvisation by the soloist.

The second movement features continuous interplay between the percussionist and sections of the orchestra. Midway through the movement, the percussionist begins to a variety of motifs which are passed along to instruments resulting in the stratification of a complex ostinato.

The third movement is introduced by the flexatone, an instrument similar to the musical saw and later features the vibraphone played with a bow. The slow tempo gradually accelerates in preparation for the following movement.

The fourth movement featured the soloist on drum set plus temple blocks and cowbells in a multimeteric setting which leads to an extended improvised cadenza.

— Fisher Tull

[October 22, 1990 — Huntsville, Texas USA

