



## Sontata for Trombone by Derek Bourgeois: A Review

David Vining

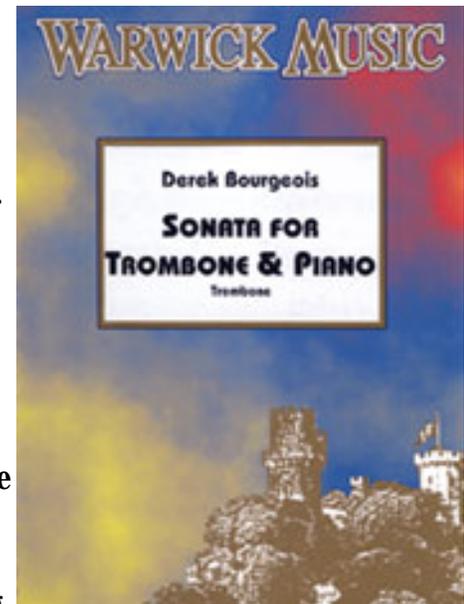
*Sonata for Trombone and Piano.* Derek Bourgeois.  
Warwick Music, Warwick, England, 2000.

Derek Bourgeois is no stranger to trombonists, having composed a popular *Concerto* among other works for the instrument. His penchant for long, lyrical melodies and virtuosic, twisty lines is again evident in his latest offering, a four movement *Sonata*. This is an epic work, spanning three octaves and lasting some twenty minutes with many changes in mood and style.

The first movement features a heroic fanfare-like opening and a second theme reminiscent of the trio section of Elgar's *Pomp and Circumstance*. The second movement is a 5/8 *scherzo* requiring nimble tonguing and solid rhythm. The third movement is marked eighth note = 88 and is built around third patterns. This movement may be the most taxing of the bunch due to its length and tessitura. The finale is romp through a playful 6/8 theme with occasional glissandi between eighth notes juxtaposed with yet another lovely lyrical duple melody.

Those looking for a technical challenge will not be disappointed by Bourgeois' *Sonata*; there are also plenty of opportunities for expressive melodic playing throughout. Bourgeois is a skilled composer who knows how to write for the trombone and this piece is a major new work sure to become popular. Whether it achieves the same status as his *Concerto* may depend on soloists' concerns over programming such a long and demanding piece. Perhaps, for this reason alone, three movements would have been sufficient.

David Vining, assistant professor of trombone at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, offers recitals and clinics to brass players and musicians of all ages. Vining has appeared as a soloist and clinician nationwide and as a guest artist at many conferences.



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