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Stepan Rak's "Tracy"(1994): A Transcription and Commentary

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Abstract

The Czech guitarist and composer Stepan Rak (b.1945) has produced major works for the guitar, many of which stretch the boundaries of guitar technique and composition in new directions. This research report provides a musical transcription of one of Rak's most ambitious pieces, *Tracy* (1994), based on the cyclone of that name which devastated the town of Darwin, Australia on Christmas Eve 1974. Rak uses rasgueado and tremolo techniques exclusively in *Tracy*. This report also contextualises the composition in terms of Rak's life and musical output, and provides a detailed description on the execution of these techniques and a general analysis of the pieces technical, formal and compositional characteristics.

Declaration

I declare that this research report is my own, unaided work. It is being submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Music (Coursework and Research Report) in the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg. It has not been submitted for any degree or examination in any other University.

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Reza Khota

_____ day of _____ 2004

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I dedicate this work to Mr Stepan Rak. Thank you for your generosity, great playing, personal correspondence, and for inspiring me to perform your music.

Contents

Page

Abstract…… i

Declaration……... ii

Acknowledgements…….. iii

Table of Contents……. iv

Part 1: Introduction…….. 1

Biography…… 5

Compositions: Characteristics and Approach……. 8

Tracy…… 9

The Guitar as a Miniature Orchestra…… 10

Part 2: Analysis……. 12

Introduction…….. 12

Section A…….. 13

Section B…….. 14

Section C…….. 15

Section D…….. 15

Section E…….. 17

Coda……. 17

Notation Symbols……. 19

Explanation of Techniques……... 19

Tremolo……. 19

Rasgueado and Strumming…… 21

Rasgueado Tremolo…….. 23

Thumb Tremolo…… 24
Brushing Tremolo……. 25
Bends……. 26
Glissandi…… 26
Drum Roll Effect…… 27
Use of the Left Hand Thumb……. 28
Use of the Voice…… 28

Tracy (Transcription)……. 30

List of References…….. 53