

Robert G. Patterson
Stomp Igor (1998)

Program Notes

Stomp Igor is an attempt to expunge Igor Stravinsky's style from my music, paradoxically by deliberately stealing from him. Snatches of *Rite of Spring* and *Petroushka* provided an opportunity to seek imaginative counterparts for Stravinsky's orchestrations within the palette of a wind band. Hopefully the wind palette and the somewhat irreverent settings cause the excerpts to be heard in a fresh way. This seems only fair, given Stravinsky's penchant for tinkering with his own forebears.

The conflict between my style and Stravinsky's is most overt in the bars preceding rehearsal 17. Two different direct quotations from the *Rite of Spring* engulf and overwhelm a gradually building texture with a quasi-salsa beat. I imagine the quotes as a sudden movie shot of Godzilla's jaws snapping menacingly while the world falls apart at his feet. A few bars later the brass (led by the trombones) arrive like St. George and banish Stravinsky forever to his own music—or at least out of my music. Of course, the hero's music suspiciously resembles Shostakovich, but we'll slay that dragon another day.