

CARL VINE

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*Descent*

*Metropolis: the Workers' View*

FOR ORCHESTRA  
(with optional film projection)

(1996)

FABER *ff* MUSIC

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*Descent* was commissioned by the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra as part of their *Metropolis* concert series.

The first performance of *Descent* was given by the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra conducted by David Stanhope in Melbourne Town Hall, Australia, on 28 November 1996

Duration: 12 minutes

Orchestral parts available for hire from the publishers

A larger-sized conductor's score is available for hire on request from the publishers

At the time of going to press *Descent* was one of the final six pieces shortlisted for the 1998 Masterprize competition. As part of the competition agreement, it was recorded by the London Symphony Orchestra conducted by Daniel Harding, a recording which was distributed as a cover-mounted CD with BBC Music Magazine in March 1998.

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## PROGRAMME NOTE

*Descent* was commissioned by the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra as part of their *Metropolis* concert series. I edited an eleven minute 'paraphrase' of Fritz Lang's epic silent film to accompany this music. This became possible by looking at only those elements of the film's script which are witnessed by half the protagonists – the Workers. The result is an enigmatic story with intriguing gaps that, nevertheless, maintains internal logic. The only way for the Workers to escape from their miserable derelict lives is through revolt. As they make the long journey from their subterranean workplace to the brilliant surface of the planet they wreak increasing havoc. As they rise to their ultimate goal they also descend to the worst, most mindless, forms of human behaviour.

The music was written to accompany a theoretical edit of the film. Once the music was finished the film was then edited to match the music. The music may, of course, be performed in its own right without film projection.

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## ORCHESTRA

2 Flutes (2 = Alto flute and Piccolo)

2 Oboes (2 = Cor anglais)

2 Clarinets in B $\flat$  (2 = Bass clarinet)

Bassoon

Contrabassoon

4 Horns in F

2 Trumpets in C

Tenor Trombone

Bass Trombone

Tuba

Timpani

Percussion (3 players)

Player 1: Large Tam-tam, 2 Anvils, Snare Drum,  
Large Suspended Cymbal, Crash Cymbals, Glockenspiel,  
Tubular Bell (B $\flat$ ), Bell Tree

Player 2: Large Tam-tam, Large Suspended Cymbal  
(shared with Player 1), 3 Low Tom-toms (14-16")

Player 3: Bass Drum

Harp

Strings

The score is notated at concert pitch

# Descent

(Metropolis : the Workers' View)

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$\text{♩} = 66$

Flute 1  
Flutter tongue  
*p* *mp*

Flute 2  
Flutter tongue  
*p* *mp*

Oboe 1  
*mp*

Oboe 2  
*mp*

Clarinet in B $\flat$   
*mp*

Bass Clarinet  
*mp*

Bassoon  
*p* *mp*

Contra Bassoon  
*p* *mp*

Horns 1&2 in F  
*mp*

Horns 3&4 in F  
*mp*

Trumpets 1&2 in C  
*mp*

Trombone 1  
con sord.  
*p* *mp*

Bass Trombone  
con sord.  
*p* *mp*

Tuba  
*p* *mp*

Timpani  
*mp* *mf*

Percussion 1  
Tamtam  
*p*

Percussion 2  
Lge. sus cym (soft yarn beater)  
*p*

Percussion 3  
Bass Drum  
*mp* *mf*

Harp  
l.v. sempre  
*mp*

$\text{♩} = 66$

Violin I  
div.  
*mp*

Violin II  
div.  
*mp*

Viola  
*p* *mp*

Cello  
*p* *mp*

Double Bass  
*p* *mp*

poco rall.

♩ = 56 "Trudging"

Fl 1 *mf*

Fl 2 *mf* to Alto Flute SOLO *mf* *mp*

Ob 1 *mp*

Ob 2 *mp* to Cor Anglais SOLO *mf* *mp*

Cl 1 *mf* *p sub.* *pp*

B Cl *mf* *p sub.* *pp*

Bsn *mf* *p sub.* *pp*

C Bsn *mf* *p sub.* *pp*

Hr 1 & 2 *mp* *p sub.* *pp*

Hr 3 & 4 *mp* *p sub.* *pp*

Tpt 1 & 2 *mf* *f* *pp sub.* *mp* I. con sord.

Tbn 1 *mf* *f* *pp sub.*

B Tbn *mf* *f* *pp sub.*

Tbo *mf* *f* *pp sub.*

Timp (tamtam) *f* *mp* *pp*

Perc 1

Perc 2 (susp. cym)

Perc 3 (B.D.) *f* *mp* *pp*

Hp *mf* *f*

poco rall.

♩ = 56

Vln I *mp* *f* senza vib. *pp*

Vln II *mp* *f* senza vib. *pp*

Vla *mf* *p sub.* *pp* div.

Vcl *mf* *f* *p sub.* *pp* div.

D.B. *mf* *f* *p sub.* *pp*