

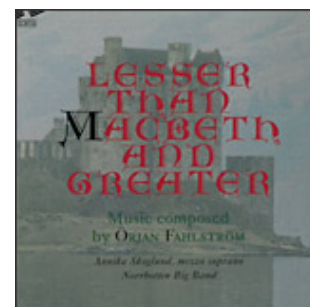
ÖRJAN FAHLSTRÖM

Composer | Conductor | Arranger

LESSER THEN MACBETH AND GREATER

Concerto for Mezzo Soprano & Jazz Orchestra

- I. Fair Is Foul, and Foul Is Fair
- II. Lesser Then Macbeth and Greater
- III. O, Never Shall Sun That Morrow See!
- IV. False Face Must Hide What the False Heart Doth Know



Composed: 1995

Duration: 53 min

First performance: July 5th, 1995 in Luleå, Sweden, performed by Norrbotten Big Band, Annika Skoglund mezzo soprano, conducted by Örjan Fahlström.

Audio/Media: Recorded for CD 1996 with Norrbotten Big Band, Annika Skoglund mezzo soprano, conducted by Örjan Fahlström (PhonoSuecia, PSCD 112)

About: **Lesser Then Macbeth and Greater** – was composed on commission by Swedish Radio P2.

Lesser Then Macbeth and Greater – is the third part of a triptych where the first part, **the Witch** (1993), is the music to a silent movie *Whichcraft through the ages* (1922) and the second part is **Animations** – concerto for organ and Jazz Orchestra (1992).

Macbeth is a tale of ambition. Macbeth is King Duncan's most loyal vassal and his bravest general. A prophecy that he will become king turns him into a serial killer...

I wanted to write a more extensive composition for solo vocal and jazz orchestra and in the drama Macbeth I found the energy I wanted. It was not only the story itself that caught my attention. Build on iambic metrical lines Shakespeare's text had a sort of "funky rhythm" very suitable for the jazz environment. The dramatic context in combination with the semi classical form created the expression I was looking for. This was an important tool for me to expand the boundaries of music for jazz orchestra. In perspective of the overall form I was pretty much inspired by the movie version of Macbeth directed by Roman Polanski.

The general idea of composing a triptych was to develop the artistic environment for big band, combining the qualities of the jazz orchestra with the musical form language of the classical music.

Orchestration: solo mezzo soprano, 5 reeds, 4 trumpets, 3 trombones, bass trombone, piano, electric bass, drums (percussion)

Lesser then Macbeth and greater is also re-orchestrated for Symphonic Wind Orchestra: solo mezzo sopr, 2 flt (picc), 1 ob, 1 cl in Eb, 3 cl in Bb, 1 Bass cl, 1 bsn, 1 a. sx, 1 t.sx 3 cor, 4 tp, 2 tbn, 1 b.tbn, 1 euph, 1 tba (F), 2 perc, 1 ac.bass (jazz), drums (jazz),