

An Analysis of Amy Dunker's *Golden Ring Dance*

By

Amy Dunker

www.amydunker.com

Instrumentation: Standard String Orchestra

Duration: 2 1/2 Minutes

Grade: 2

Harmonic Language: Tonal (G Major)

Composition Date: 2007

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Composer Bio:

Composer-trumpeter-educator Amy Dunker's music resists easy categorization. From avant-garde improvisation to minimalistic sound sculptures to neo-romantic echoings, Amy delves deeply into the nature of human experience. Her works have been performed throughout the United States, Czech-Republic, Italy, the Ukraine, France, Thailand, Japan, Mexico, Germany, Great Britain, and Puerto Rico. Amy Dunker is an Associate Professor of Music at Clarke College where she teaches composition, theory, aural skills and trumpet. Amy received her bachelor's degree (music education) from Morningside College, a master's degree in trumpet performance from the University of South Dakota, a master's degree in composition from Butler University and a doctorate in composition from the University of Missouri-Kansas City - Conservatory of Music. Major influences in her musical education include Stanley DeRusha, Chen Yi, James Mobberley and Michael Schelle. Amy's works have been recorded on the ERM Media, NextAGem, Centerpoint and Whatsit labels. Her music is published by Alliance Publications, Inc.

Other String Orchestra Works by Amy Dunker:

Strings Around the World Series:

African Serenade (Grade 3 ½)	AP – 4122
Bossa Nova Brazil! (Grade 3)	AP – 4114
Brazil! (Grade 3)	AP – 4109
Cumbia! Cumbia! (Grade 3)	AP – 4106
Gvovi (Grade 2)	AP – 4110
Golden Ring Dance (Grade 2)	AP – 4116
Raga India (Grade 4)	AP – 4108
Reggae Jamaica (Grade 3)	AP – 4124
Rondo on a Puerto Rican Folk Song (Grade 1)	AP – 4121
South Africa Sings (Grade 3)	AP – 4115
Tango Loca (Grade 4)	AP – 4118
Tanz! (Grade 3)	AP – 4118
The Mambo Kings (Grade 3)	AP – 4119
Tribute to the Mariachi (Grade 3)	AP – 4117

Strings Today Series

As Darkness Falls (Grade 4)	AP - 4111
Homage to W. A. Mozart (Grade 4)	AP – 4112
Rain Sketch (Grade 3)	AP – 4123

St. Lucia:

Saint Lucia is an island nation in the eastern Caribbean Sea on the boundary with the Atlantic Ocean. Part of the Lesser Antilles, it is located north of the islands of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. Saint Lucia is one of the Windward Islands, named for Saint Lucy of Syracuse. It was first visited by Europeans in about the year 1500 and first colonized successfully by France who signed a treaty with the native Carib peoples in 1660. Great Britain took control of the island from 1663 to 1667 then went to war with France over it fourteen times, and finally took complete control in 1814. Representative government came about in 1924. From 1958 to 1962, the island was a member of the Federation of the West Indies. On February 22, 1979, Saint Lucia became an independent state of the Commonwealth of Nations.

The culture of Saint Lucia is rich in history. The culture has been influenced by African, French and English heritage. One of the secondary languages is Kreole, a form of French patois. Saint Lucian cultural festivals include La Rose and La Marguerite, the one representing the Rosicrucian order, the other one representing Freemasonry. Traditionally, in common with other Caribbean countries, Saint Lucia held a carnival before Lent. In 1999, it was moved to mid-July in order to not to coincide with the much larger Trinidad and Tobago carnival, so as to attract more overseas visitors.

A popular folk dance is the Quadrille. As well as other Caribbean music genres such as soca, zouk, kompa, and reggae, Saint Lucia has a strong indigenous folk music tradition.¹ Children often sing songs while playing games and while dancing.

Form:

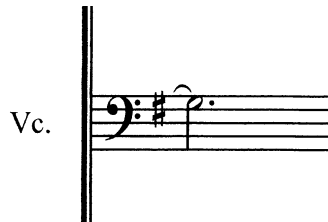
Introduction	ms. 1 – 8	
A	ms. 9 -24	Theme 1
B	ms. 25 - 38	Theme 2
A	ms. 39 - 62	Theme 1
A'	ms. 63 – 94	Theme 1

Theme 1 (Violin I, ms. 9 - 16):



¹ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint_Lucia (accessed 02/07/08).

Theme 2 (Violoncello, ms. 32 – 35):



Recommended Recordings:

Caribbean Voyage: Brown Girl in the Ring

http://www.amazon.com/Caribbean-Voyage-Brown-Girl-Ring/dp/B0000002UX/ref=sr_1_2?ie=UTF8&s=music&qid=1202484107&sr=1-2

Musical Traditions of St. Lucia, West Indies: Dances and Songs from a Caribbean Island

http://www.amazon.com/Musical-Traditions-Lucia-West-Indies/dp/B000001DKT/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=music&qid=1202483996&sr=1-1

Golden Ring Dance Rhythms

1.)



2.)



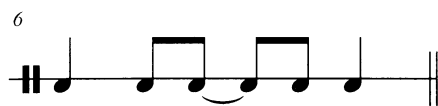
3.)



4.)



5.)



6.)



Dr. Amy Dunker is an Associate Professor of Music at Clarke College in Dubuque, IA, USA where she teaches composition, theory, aural skills, trumpet and directs the new music ensemble.

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