Paul Gregory Bonneau
(1962-2013)

American Dream:
I Want to Rule the World,
for violin and orchestra
(2005)

typeset from the original score by Tobias Broeker (2017) - see www.tobias-broeker.de for further information
instrumentation

1 piccolo (doubling flute)
   2 flutes
   2 oboes
2 clarinets in B♭
   2 bass clarinet
   2 bassoons

4 horns in F
2 trumpets in B♭
2 trombones
1 bass trombone
   1 tuba

timpani
percussion: triangle, tambourine, suspended cymbals, bell tree, snare drum,
gong, Chinese cymbal, bass drum, temple blocks, high wood blocks

xylophone

solo violin

strings

world premiere: March 2006
Lewis Wong, violin
Flower Mound Community Orchestra
Paul Gregory Bonneau, conductor
composer's note:

*American Dream: I want to rule the World* is composed in three sections, each more dissonant than the preceding one. The solo violinist plays a proactive role throughout, with the orchestra "reacting" to the impetus of the soloist. Each section is brought to a close as the orchestra, seemingly impatient with the views of the soloist, takes over the melodic material and disavows itself of the soloist. The final section is composed in a canon. Canon is literally defined as a law or rule. In music a canon is defined as one voice leading with a musical phrase or idea, and subsequent voices repeating literally what the first voice articulates, been prohibited "by law" to deviate from the lead voice. The popular children's song "Row, Row, Row Your Boat" is perhaps the simplest example of a well-known musical canon. My canon in this third section begins in concordance with the rules of a musical canon (in this case a canon at the interval of a major second), but eventually goes terribly awry. The musical construction is embodied in, and is a reflection of, the title of the work.

The title of the work and what it means are meant to express views that are entirely my own. But as one may wonder as to what *American Dream* means, here are a few words: I love the United States of America. I am grateful to have been born a citizen of this country. Our U.S. Constitution is arguably the greatest document outlining a system of government ever written and enacted. And it is my opinion that we, as a nation, are in troubling times. What was once a noble dream, the American Dream, which has meant that anyone in the United States need only work hard with honesty and integrity to achieve a fulfilling life of freedom and prosperity; has metastasized to mean *American Dream: I want to rule the World*.

I am but an artist, helpless to enact major change. I have one resource: my art, and through it, I will not remain silent.
Moderato
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