

NOLA

A Tribute to New Orleans

For B \flat Clarinet, Trombone, and Piano

MIKE SPRINGER

Commissioned by the Music Teachers National Association for the
2015 National Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada

New Orleans, Louisiana (NOLA)—there's no other place like it on earth! From its Creole and Cajun cuisines to its rightful claim to fame as the birthplace of jazz, the city is a unique culture in and of itself.

My wife, Christy, and I had the opportunity to visit New Orleans in 2010, five years after the devastating Hurricane Katrina. We found a city in which the vibrancy and culture of the people live strong. In a sense, the city had been reborn in the aftermath of the storm.

When I was asked to create a piano trio for the 2015 MTNA Conference, I decided that clarinet, trombone, and piano created the perfect trio to salute the people of New Orleans on this 10th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina. The trio is divided into three movements:

I. Vibrancy – I imagined life before the storm—a vibrant city full of life, a city where the gumbo flowed and the Dixieland jazz was plentiful. The movement is energetic and full of happiness.

II. Aftermath – Hurricane Katrina was one of the most devastating hurricanes on record to hit the Louisiana coast. With immense destruction and loss of life, the city's heart and soul were damaged. The movement begins and ends with five piano "chimes," signifying the 5:00 A.M. landfall of the storm. I tried to portray a certain desperation, but not hopelessness. The movement switches back and forth from swing eighth notes to straight eighth notes, signifying the uncertainty of the city's revival.

III. Rebirth – This movement begins with cautious optimism. It also begins a full step lower than the first movement, but soon crescendos and changes back to the key of the first movement, symbolizing the rebirth of the city.

I wish to say a huge thanks to MTNA, Ann Witherspoon (MTNA National Chair of the Commissioning Program), E. L. Lancaster, Gayle Kowalchuk, and the entire team at Alfred Music for their involvement in the commissioning of this piece. I hope that you enjoy *NOLA: A Tribute to New Orleans*.

Mike Springer

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Giant steamboats at New Orleans, 1853 © Wikimedia.org / Martin H.

NOLA

A Tribute to New Orleans

I. Vibrancy

Mike Springer

With energy ($\text{♩} = 92$) $\text{♩} = \text{♩}^3$

B♭ Clarinet

Trombone

Piano

f *mp*

f *mp*

f *mp*

4 2 1 2

5 3 2

5

mf

f

5

mf

5 2 1 3 1 1

LH legato

II. Aftermath

Grave (♩ = 66) Slowly in tempo (♩ = $\overset{\sim}{\text{♩}}^3$)

B♭ Clarinet

Trombone

Piano

ff *p*

cup mute

p

5

8va

open

5

3 1 4 2 1

mp

9

mp

9

mf

1 3 5

III. Rebirth

Allegro moderato (♩ = 160) $\text{♪} = \overset{\sim}{\text{♩}} \overset{\sim}{\text{♩}}$

B♭ Clarinet

Trombone

Piano

p

5

5