Mars van Iskahdar - Chan
March of Iskahdar - Khan

Versie voor harmonieorkest
Version for wind orchestra

Eduard de Boer

PARTITUUR
SCORE

opus 33 M U S I C
The point of departure for this composition has been Uzbek traditional music. Before starting composing, I immersed myself in the book *Ocherki po istorii muzyki narodov SSSR* (Essays about the music history of the peoples of the U.S.S.R) by Viktor Beliaev, edited by Mark Slobin. In this book’s chapter about Uzbekistan, I encountered the following fascinating march theme:

In folk tradition, this march was called *March of Iskahdar-Khan*. In Central Asia, *Iskahdar-Khan* was the name given to Alexander the Great. This somehow inspired me. In addition, I transcribed a few traditional Uzbek dances from recordings on YouTube. Here is an excerpt from one of them:

The total of these musical ‘ingredients’ led me to write a composition with a rather simple, but at the same time dark and menacing atmosphere. After a relatively slow introduction, the music becomes ever fiercer in a series of successive waves, until a climax is reached, culminating in a few bars of solo percussion. This is followed by a lamenting variant of the march theme, after which the composition reaches a stark conclusion.

Eduard de Boer, December 21st, 2016
Duration: ca. 12 min. 
Dedicated to Ángel Hernández Azorín and the Banda “Asociación Amigos de la Música” de Yecla 
So far co-commissioned by1:
– The Banda “Asociación Amigos de la Música” de Yecla
– The Dutch Koninklijke Militaire Kapel Johan Willem Friso
– Harmonie Sint Gregorius, Haaren

LIST OF PLAYERS

Piccolo  
Flutes I, II  
Oboes I, II  
Bassoons I, II

E♭ Clarinet  
First Clarinets  
Second Clarinets  
Third Clarinets  
Bass Clarinet

Alto Saxophone(s) I in E♭  
Alto Saxophone(s) II in E♭  
Tenor Saxophone(s) in B♭  
Baritone Saxophone(s) in E♭

First Flugelhorns in B♭  
Second Flugelhorns in B♭  
Third Flugelhorns in B♭  
E♭ Trumpet  
Trumpet(s) I in B♭  
Trumpet(s) II in B♭  
Trumpet(s) III in B♭

First Horns (I, III) in F  
Second Horns (II, IV) in F

Trombone(s) I  
Trombone(s) II  
Bass Trombone  
Baritones / Euphoniums I in B♭  
Baritone(s) / Euphonium(s) II in B♭  
E♭ Bass(es)  
B♭ Bass(es)

Violoncelli (Optional)  
Contrabass (Optional), preferably with low C

Percussion I: Timpani  
Percussion II: Suspended Cymbal  
Percussion III: Tenor Drum  
Percussion IV: Pair of Cymbals, Snare Drum

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1 This composition is a crowdfunding project. I also wrote a version of it for fanfare orchestra, and for €150, you and/or your orchestra can become one of the commissioners of either version: you will then be mentioned in this preface to the score as a co-commissioner. If you feel like participating, please contact me at hallo@eduarddeboer.org.