

Green Spaces

Composer: Avner Dorman

Year: 2024

Duration: about 20-22 minutes

Orchestration: Flute, Trombone, Percussion* , 2 Violins, Viola, Violoncello, Double Bass

Publisher: Lyric Row Press

Commission: Zum 25jährigen Bestehen – Auftragskomposition der Orchesterakademie der Essener Philharmoniker e.V. Commissioned by the Orchestra Academy of the Essen Philharmonic for its 25th Anniversary

Program Note

Commissioned by the Orchesterakademie der Essener Philharmoniker, "Green Spaces" is a musical journey through the rich tapestry of Essen, Germany. The piece honors the city's industrial heritage, notably the Zollverein Coal Mine Industrial Complex while celebrating its metamorphosis into a sanctuary of green spaces and cultural richness. Written as a single, continuous movement and approximately 20 minutes in length, "Green Spaces" maintains a steady, underlying pulse throughout its sectional architecture. The composition opens with a majestic aura, capturing the grandeur of both the Zollverein Coal Mine and the natural landscapes of Essen. Initially, this sets up a dualistic tone, seemingly pitting industrial might against natural beauty. However, as the piece unfolds, this dualism is revealed to be an illusion. The mechanical complexity that echoes the industrial era—representing miners, factory workers, engineers, and other industrial laborers—begins to harmonize with more expressive, humanistic elements. The music explores the intricate relationship between machine and human, technology and art, as two sides of the same coin. Dynamic swells and complex polyrhythms create an increasing sense of urgency, questioning and redefining the machine's role in human life. This leads to a poignant reflection on the sacrifices and resilience of industrial workers. The composition celebrates how Essen has transformed its old industrial sites into modern green spaces, capturing the essence of life, love, and creativity. The perpetual motion of the piece evolves to

resemble a beating heart, symbolizing the harmonious coexistence and ultimate oneness of technology and nature, machine and humanity. A set of variations explores increasingly intimate and expressive ways to coexist with technology while keeping the environment in our hearts and minds. The piece concludes meditatively, inviting us to listen—to nature, our hearts, and the silent truths that only quietness can reveal. "Green Spaces" is a tribute to the resilience and transformation of Essen, a city that has successfully integrated its industrial past with a sustainable and culturally rich present. It is a call to reimagine our modern world—a world where technology and nature, once thought to be in opposition, are revealed to be harmoniously interconnected.

Avner Dorman

Lyric Row Press

Accessed on December 6, 2025