

# Loud

## Instrumentation

- 1 Piccolo, 2 Flutes, 2 Oboes, 2 Clarinets in Bb, 3 Bassoons (3rd doubling Contrabassoon)
- 4 Horns in F, 2 Trumpets in C, 3 Trombones, 1 Tuba
- Timpani; Perc. 1: Crotales, Woodblocks (hi-lo). Crash Cymbals; Perc. 2: Crotales (shares same set with Perc. 1), Snare Drum, Xylophone, Congas (hi-lo), Tam-tam, Crash Cymbals; Perc. 3: Suspended Cymbal, Bass Drum, Tam-tam, Snare Drum, Tom toms (hi-med-lo), Crash Cymbals
- Harp
- Strings

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**Loud**, for orchestra

Duration: 7' 30"

"Loud" is a journey from a place of doubt, isolation, and hatred, toward acceptance, community, and love. A journey not unlike that of many LGBTQ+ youth across the world, who have fled their birthplaces and biological families in search of a haven where they can flourish and be their true selves. A journey toward hard-fought rights and freedoms that have been conquered slowly but steadily in the past few decades but that once again seem to be under threat. This is their homage, their voice, and their song. May we rise again to the challenge and drown the screams of oppression with anthems of love.

Loud are our protests, like the 1969 Stonewall Uprising in NYC or the 1966 Compton's Cafeteria Riot in San Francisco, but loud are also our drag queens, parades, outfits, and demeanor. For so long our community had been silenced that, in response, we collectively raised our voices and revealed our unabashedly true selves to the world. Our contributions have been lasting and profound, particularly in the arts, where countless queer artists have played pivotal roles in the fields of music, fashion, and literature, to name a few. This is something to be celebrated, and I couldn't be more honored to have been endowed with this task.

Co-commissioned by the International Pride Orchestra (IPO), the San Francisco Conservatory of Music (SFCM) and the Seattle Youth Symphony Orchestra (SYSO), this work holds a very special place in my heart. As a gay man who has lived in the San Francisco Bay Area for almost 16 years, writing a piece to commemorate Pride is genuinely meaningful to me. Even though a small group of close friends and family knew, it was not until I reached the West Coast back in 2007 that I finally accepted who I was and came out to the world at large. It is here where I felt safe and free to be myself; where I was no longer an exception, nor did I need to hide who I was at all. I could be myself at home, at the store, the train, and the park, and no one would look at me neither approvingly nor disapprovingly—I had finally come to a place where I was not being treated differently.



Pride is also the time of the year when I met my now husband, Franciel, and June is the month during which we got married just a year ago, on June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022. Franciel's own path to acceptance was also fraught with difficulties. Born in a small village in Northeastern Brazil, he was always restless, moving first to São Luis and then São Paulo, but it was only here, in San Francisco, that he gathered the strength to finally come out publicly. For all these reasons, and because Pride has played such a central role in our lives, I have dedicated this work to him, and present it as a gift to mark our first-year anniversary.

I want to sincerely thank Michael Roest, founder and director of the IPO, for his leadership and vision; renowned Conductor and SFCM Music Director, Edwin Outwater, for his invaluable involvement in this commission since its inception; and SYSO Music Director, Juan Felipe Molano for bringing his fabulous ensemble on board and for so firmly believing in this beautiful project.

Let us all be loud and proud. Together.

Jimmy López Bellido © 2023