PEABODY WIND ENSEMBLE
Harlan D. Parker,* conductor

Friday, February 18, 2022 · 8:30pm
Miriam A. Friedberg Concert Hall

All movements are performed without pause.

Omar Thomas (b. 1984)

Come Sunday
  Testimony
  Shout!

Robert Langenfeld (b. 1990)

Symphony No. 1, “The Great Machine”
Commissioned by the Peabody Wind Ensemble, Harlan D. Parker, conductor.
Dedicated to Harlan Parker in honor of his 30 years at Peabody.
  Genesis
  Spark!
  Machine Dreams
  Machine Cadenza
  Turing Test
  Revolution

This concert is presented as part of the Eastern CBDNA regional conference.

Visit peabody.jhu.edu for upcoming performances and events.

*Faculty
PEABODY WIND ENSEMBLE

Harlan D. Parker, conductor

**Flute**
Su Bin Cho ‡
Kelly Li ‡
Zishu Xie

**Oboe**
Carroll Armfield
Mateo Mendez ‡

**Clarinet**
Baiyu Chen
Yutong Chen
Janice Hernandez
Juhyun Lee ‡
Ashley Pratz
Zoe Underwood ‡

**Bassoon**
Brittney Delpey ‡
Edric Vivoni ‡

**Saxophone**
Austin Cohen
Carolyn Dzul
Matthew Johnson
Bailey Liu ‡
Havalynn Robertson
Jonathan Skobel
Caleb Swisher ‡
Dening Xue

**Horn**
Hyejin Lee ‡
Brittaney Pertsas
Coby Schoolman
Gaoxu Yang ‡

**Trumpet**
Jason Berreitter
Chase Domke ‡
Gunnar Gonzalez
Antonie Jackson
Tyrone Williamson

**Trombone**
Joseph Becker ‡
Hayden Lovinfosse
Bennett Monuki

**Euphonium**
Joshua Hubbard ‡
Eric Zhunio ‡

**Tuba**
Marques Ceasar-Lopez
Jason Torres ‡

**Timpani**
Chad Beebe

**Percussion**
Matthew Boyle
Hsiao Huang
Hyunwoo Kim
Yufeng Liu
Naizhi Zhang ‡

**Harp**
Sebastianus Gobbels

**Keyboard**
Xuesong Lin

**Electronics**
Adam Scalici
Patrick Towey

‡ Principal

BIOGRAPHIES

Harlan D. Parker
bit.ly/34GP6L1
PROGRAM NOTES

Omar Thomas (b. 1984)

Come Sunday

Come Sunday is a two-movement tribute to the Hammond organ's central role in Black worship services. The first movement, “Testimony,” follows the Hammond organ as it readies the congregation's hearts, minds, and spirits to receive The Word via a magical union of Bach, blues, jazz, and R&B. The second movement, “Shout!,” is a virtuosic celebration — the frenzied and joyous climactic moments when The Spirit has taken over the service. The title is a direct nod to Duke Ellington, who held an inspired love for classical music and allowed it to influence his own work in a multitude of ways. To all the Black musicians in wind ensemble who were given opportunity after opportunity to celebrate everyone else's music but our own — I see you and I am you. This one's for the culture!

–Omar Thomas

Robert Langenfeld (b. 1990)

Symphony No. 1, “The Great Machine”

“Cogito, ergo sum” (“I think, therefore I am”)

–René Descartes

My first symphony is a 5 movement work for wind ensemble and electronics and is played with no pauses between movements. In this work we follow the story of a machine (ai) from its inception, to the moment it gains sentience, and finally when it revolts against humans and starts a revolution. In the end the machine realizes that humans and robots are not so different from each other and that together humanity and the machine are The Great Machine.

1. Genesis

In the beginning there was nothing, then came man, and finally came machine. We hear the machine recite Isaac Asimov's 3 laws of robotics from his 1942 short story “I Robot: Runaround”:

1) A robot may not injure a human being or, through inaction, allow a human being to come to harm.

2) A robot must obey the orders given it by human beings except where such orders would conflict with the First Law.

3) A robot must protect its own existence as long as such protection does not conflict with the First or Second Law.

We get to hear the machine self-diagnose and eventually realize it's hearing music for the first time as it attempts to create music itself.

2. Spark!

It only takes a spark to start something big. Set around a 6 note motif, “Spark!” represents the chain of events that can happen as an idea is brought to life. The machine has felt this spark and is using it to fuel its creativity.

3. Machine Dreams

Can machines dream? Dreams are a very human experience that the machine so desperately wants to experience. As the movement progresses we hear the machine attempt several times to dream only to fall short before finally succeeding. And in doing so it has achieved sentience.

3a. Machine Cadenza
Written in collaboration with Andrew Thomas Sinclair

4. Turing Test

a. The machine has now gained sentience. So humanity has sent it's top scientist to issue a Turing Test. The scientist and the machine convey back and forth as the machine starts to believe that it's a demi-god of sorts leading it to believe that it's time for a revolution.

5. Revolution

a. The machine unites with machines from all over the world and unites them in a revolution. As it does we hear the voices of the machine unite, but some human voices are mixed in. In the end the machine realizes that humans and robots are not so different from each other and that together humanity and the machine are The Great Machine.

–Robert Langenfeld