Arcturus

for trombone and interactive music system
2006

Robert Rowe

commissioned by the University of Wisconsin
Arcturus (2006) for trombone and interactive music system was written for Mark Hetzler and commissioned by the University of Wisconsin. The computer part interacts with the trombonist in varying ways through the course of the piece, through effects processing, soundfile playback, envelope following, and more, using a program written by the composer in C++. The title comes from Virgil's *Georgics*. As a Wisconsin native, I was drawn to Virgil's depiction of farming as an activity poised at the intersection of practicality and transcendence.

Up then! if fat the soil, let sturdy bulls
Upturn it from the year's first opening months,
And let the clods lie bare till baked to dust
By the ripe suns of summer; but if the earth
Less fruitful just ere Arcturus rise
With shallower trench uptilt it- 'twill suffice;
There, lest weeds choke the crop's luxuriance, here,
Lest the scant moisture fail the barren sand.
Arcturus
for Mark Hetzler

Robert Rowe

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state 10

state 11

state 12

improvise short glissandi with irregular rhythms in middle to low registers
improvise on high harmonics using plunger and pixie mute (aggressive, dynamic)
Arcturus

state 24

state 25

state 26

state 27

state 28

state 29