

Laconika (2010)

George Tsontakis (1951-)

Alarming
Lacomotion
Mercurial
Laconicrimosa
Twilight

Laconika was commissioned by the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra through their unique Sound Investment program and premiered on May 15 and 16, 2010, the composer conducting. The fifteen minute work is true to its Grecian title in that it consists of five short, pithy or “Spartan” pieces, each with an identifiably “catchy” character – this from a composer most often recognized for his longer movements within large musical forms.

Within months of its Los Angeles premiere, *Laconika* received its New York premiere at Lincoln Center’s Alice Tully Hall, with the Riverside Symphony and its West Coast premiere following shortly after, at The Cabrillo Music Festival in Santa Cruz, CA.

The composer writes:

“In *Laconika*, I sought to challenge myself to compose five shorter movements, each with as much individual color as I could muster within the space of, let’s say, the average “historical” song – pop, classical, troubadour or other styles of the world’s most popular musical idiom. This was done with musical economy of means ever in mind. The characters of the movements reflect their titles; two which alter real words to suit the first performances by LACO, the acronym for the LA Chamber Orchestra. Indeed, my *Laconicrimosa* incorporates a very famous snippet of the world’s most recognized *Lacrimosa*, here rendered with a degree of respectful poetic license.”