MARK WHALE
KEYS TO MUSIC
SPECTACULAR

213. Wintergames
Backgrounds of S. Radic

Music at the Olympics

Organized athletic contests originally held in ancient Greece to celebrate an Olympiad (a period of four years), and revived in Athens in 1896. The running of the modern Olympics is controlled by the International Olympics Committee (IOC). Separate Winter Olympics have been held in the same year as the Summer Olympics 1924-92. Each Olympics program must include exhibitions and demonstrations of fine arts in addition to the sporting events; these arts festivals were an important component of the two Olympic events held in Canada by 1991.

Calgary Winter Olympics 1988

The Calgary games were preceded by a five-week Olympics Arts Festival (23 Jan-28 Feb 1988), an extravaganza of diverse performances and exhibitions. Orchestras, dance troupes, choirs, chamber ensembles, rock groups, percussionists, theatre and opera companies, comedians and jugglers, films, literature, poetry, photography, the visual arts, architecture, technology in the arts, Native culture, and special events such as snow sculpting were represented. The chairman of the festival committee was Ron Ghitter, and the manager was Michael Tabbitt. The event highlighted local and Canadian talent, but artists from abroad were also featured, notably the Juilliard String Quartet, the Joffrey Ballet, the Peter Brooks production of La Tragédie de Carmen, the Flying Karamazov Brothers, and the Mikali Chamber Choir (Sweden). The $10-million budget, 70 per cent federally funded, was the largest of any winter Olympics.festival to date. The festival aimed to 'offer the world a magnificent showcase of Canadian talent at a level equal to that of the athletic competitions' (Otto Jelinek, federal sports minister, Toronto Star, 28 Dec 1987). Performances - most were broadcast on CBC radio, and many were televised internationally - were held at the Olympic Saddledome, Jubilee Auditorium, Calgary Centre for the Performing Arts (now EPCOR Centre for the Performing Arts), and the Banff CA. Some events toured nationally before or after the games. The official theme song 'Come Together in Calgary,' first recorded in 1981, was re-recorded in 1988 and incorporated into the film score of Calgary 88: Soon the Glory Begins. The LP Dream on the Horizon: A Tribute to the Olympic Spirit featured Rik Emmet of Triumph, Liona Boyd, and Alex Lifeson of Rush, and was produced by Keith Elshaw (Chartwell WSC-331).

The gala opening of the festival in the Saddledome 23 January featured an Olympic Massed Choir of 700 voices accompanied by the Calgary Philharmonic under Mario Bernardi, Quebec impressionist André-Philippe Gagnon, Anne Murray, Loverboy, skating champion Toller Cranston, and the Canadian Brass. Three works were commissioned for the gala opening: Olympic Jazz Suite for piano and orchestra, composed and performed by Oscar Peterson; pianist David Foster's theme Winter Games; and Howard Cable's Olympic Fanfare for brass. In addition the last movement of Srul Irving Glick's The Hour Has Come was performed. The opening was filmed as a 90-minute CBC special hosted by the computer-generated character Max Headroom (actor Matt Frewer).

David Foster Live

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4aFtFOKFPmk

Programming instruction

This disco programming is only used in the middle part of the title and represents a simple 8th beat. The dotting in the bass drum and bass area creates a "driving effect". The composition is otherwise provided with many interruptions and bar changes, where drum and accompaniment interjections adapted to the melody have to be programmed in the sense of an arrangement. The very strong second helping is done in the drum area with a strongly reverberated snare, which is also taken over by the guitar of the accompanist. The strings of the accompaniment form an interesting disco variation with a medium high chordpad.