

Couturier, Jean-Louis. *Resolutio*. Trumpet. Gerard Billaudot, Paris, 2017.

Resolutio is an adventurous composition for solo C trumpet by French composer and arranger Jean-Louis Couturier. Written as an homage to internationally renowned trumpeter, educator, and musicologist Edward Hankins Tarr (b. 1936), this piece, according to the opening remarks by Couturier, “aspires to be representative of both generosity and eclecticism” of the artist and scholar.

The title, *Resolutio*, is a four-syllable Latin word that phonetically names the notes from the Latin hymn to John the Baptist RE/SOL/UT/SI or D/G/C/B-flat. These four notes begin the piece and form the harmonic foundation for the composition. Couturier also utilizes the number twelve in various incarnations, because it, according to the composer’s opening remarks, “represents wholeness, plenitude and unity.” From the twelve unique tempo markings to the tone row that appears in various incarnations throughout, *Resolutio* is a thoroughfare for the masterful trumpeter.

Resolutio begins with a dynamic Lamento quarter note statement of D/G/C/B-flat at a *fortissimo* dynamic in common time that reaches a climax on a rapidly accelerating arpeggiated line that ends on a 64th-note figure on high B-flat. The second section, marked “Moderato” and written in 12/4 time, begins with an inversion of the four-note figure and immediately utilizes turns and trills to add to the energy of the section. The following section, marked “meno mosso” and in 12/8 time, continues to expound upon the four-note theme and adds mordents along with 16th and 32nd notes to the melody’s frantic nature.

The second page includes more shifts in tempo and mood, beginning with a *lento* section that includes a pedal C and extends to d''' above the staff. Harmonic variety with the introduction of a tone row in a *cantabile* cup-muted section is added, along with large intervallic leaps, extreme dynamic variety, staccato markings, and added grace notes.

A rapid 6/8-time *con spirito* eighth-note section leads into the third page, which features stepwise motion coupled with arpeggiated lines. Following a *moderato* sixteenth-note passage and complex melodic and harmonic development, Couturier moves into a *fortissimo* swing section that helps reestablish the original four-note theme, transposed up by a half step in a beautiful *cantabile*, “Andante” closing section. With a performance time of 6 minutes 25 seconds and an extended range, *Resolutio* is a challenging piece that will provide the advanced college student or professional a wonderful platform to showcase their virtuosity at a concert, recital, or masterclass. (Christopher Braun, adjunct trumpet instructor, Sinclair Community College, Dayton, OH)