

*Eisenhower Farewell Address* is a new, half-hour, major work by Jack Curtis Dubowsky.

*Eisenhower Farewell Address*, like Aaron Copland's *Lincoln Portrait*, uses a speaker in conjunction with live orchestra. The text is excerpted from one of the most renowned Presidential speeches in US history.

Dwight David Eisenhower, Five-Star General and Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces in Europe, resigned his Army commission in order to become thirty-fourth President of the United States. Eisenhower served two terms as President, and delivered a televised Farewell Address on January 17, 1961 from the Oval Office.

In his speech, Eisenhower warned the country of a growing danger he called the "military industrial complex." This was the first use of the term to describe the iron triangle of the military, the government, and the defense industry. The speech is remarkable for its prescience and its relevance today. Although many feared the "red menace," Eisenhower was keenly aware that changes in society had established a permanent arms industry at home, and he called for an alert and responsible citizenry to be wary of it so as to ensure worldwide security and liberty.

*Eisenhower Farewell Address* uses vamps and sections in free time to allow the orator to speak at his own place. Within these sections, different instruments are given gestures, effects, or a selection of notes to play at their own liberty. This allows for the creation of modern orchestral colors without having to micromanage synchronization or mire the score in excessive detail.

*Eisenhower Farewell Address* features several themes, with a recurring *idée fixe* of a pattern of notes: D, D, E. This rising whole tone pattern generates other motives. D minor and E minor are important key areas in the piece. Each of these keys uses just one accidental, which symbolizes the singularity of Eisenhower as man and President.

The music is loosely organized around the text, significant excerpts of Eisenhower's speech. It was necessary to abridge the address for issues of length and concision. The music is not overly programmatic, but rather a musical environment for the text.

*Eisenhower Farewell Address* begins with a brass fanfare in a slow, stately 3/2. The DDE motto is harmonized in an ambiguous whole tone manner. Two frenetic dances, in 7/8 and 5/4, obsessively create the off-kilter mechanical compulsion of industry. Compulsion continues as the whole tone motive is developed and evolves into a strange, obsessive, wandering, neo-baroque ground bass for strings. The piece culminates in the realization of a bright march initially suggested by the opening fanfare. Upon completion of his presidency, Eisenhower's retired commission was reactivated and he was again a five-star general.

*Eisenhower Farewell Address* marks the second collaboration of this composer and orchestra. The Castro Valley Chamber Orchestra, with the Mount Eden Chorus, premiered Dubowsky's *Quaker Peace Testimony* December 19, 2007 at All Saints Church in Hayward.