

Hip-hop beats, pop melodic hooks, electronic dance moves, jazz hits and grooves, a sample-loop cadenza, the virtuosic flashes of a shining star soprano saxophone...Mark Engebretson's Concerto for Soprano Saxophone and Orchestra lights up the symphonic world with a burning intensity. The first movement is a mash up of inspirations from the infectious music we hear every day. The second is a plaintive, heartfelt jazz ballad, turned sideways and layered on top of itself. The third movement is an all-out, take-no-prisoners, burning *tour de force* for soloist and orchestra. Throughout, in the great concerto tradition, a large, energetic orchestra takes on the brilliance of a superhuman hero soloist. This is a symphonic concerto for the 21st century, a work conceived for the symphonic orchestra, delivered by a quintessentially contemporary soloist voice: an upbeat, high-spirited joy ride for people who really love a great musical adventure.