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REM

GODZILLA EATS LAS VEGAS!

NOTES ON PERFORMANCE

O.K., time to let your hair down. Here is a short list of helpful hints:

- The bass (preferably an acoustic bass with pickup) should only be amplified and played pizz. when playing solo. All other times (when it is doubling the tuba) it should be unamped and arco.
- The effect in measures 75 and 76 should be that of a **theremin**, one of those high, spooky sounding electrical instruments from the really bad '50's sci-fi movies. Half of the players should sing in a high, pure register and half should whistle with a very wide vibrato. If you have one solid soprano in the group, give her a solo with all the whistlers. If you have access to a good sample (or, God forbid, an actual theremin) by all means use it.
- The screams (as well as the barking dog and lead Elvis) are printed in the parts as they appear in the score, but please feel free to assign them by audition (some players have an amazingly natural affinity for this sort of thing...).
- The horn 'Roars' should sound as much like the Big Guy as possible. Try to get the section to work as a team, creating the effect of one large voice.
- The vamp at letter 'L' is for **Drama**. At this point, all the percussionists should transform slowly into the army of Elvises (Elvi), donning wigs, sequins, shades... anything they can get their hands on. There can be a mix of young and old Elvi, and the whole event should be played for big laughs. The conductor can join in, even the audience; just be sure to move on when it's not funny anymore.
- Keep it moving... the whole piece will be a lot more effective if the story keeps rollin' along.
- Be creative! Go nuts! If you can use **Neon** or **Showgirls** anywhere in the performance, you win **Big Bonus Points!!!**

PROGRAM NOTES FOR GODZILLA

The program notes are included on the opposite page. It is essential that these notes appear in the program exactly as written, as it will really help the audience stay with you. *Godzilla Eats Las Vegas* was commissioned by the University of Nevada, Las Vegas Wind Symphony, Thomas G. Leslie, conductor, and received it's premiere on November 28th, 1996. It has been performed throughout Japan, North America, Europe, Asia, and Australia and has even been played by The United States Marine Band (The President's Own!).

ABOUT THE COMPOSER

Born in 1970, Eric Whitacre is quickly becoming one of the bright stars of the American music scene. He is a regularly commissioned and published composer, and has received performances of his works throughout the world. Eric has received awards from ASCAP, the American Choral Directors Association, The Barlow International Foundation and the Dale Warland Singers commissioning program. As conductor, Mr. Whitacre has served as principal conductor at the College Light Opera Company, chorus master for the Nevada Symphony Orchestra, and has appeared as guest conductor with the Gregg Smith Singers and the San Francisco Symphony Chorus. Eric has studied composition with John Corigliano and David Diamond and holds the Master of Music degree from the Juilliard School of Music.

AND FINALLY...

Please send me recordings, programs, letters, questions; I'd love to hear from you! Eric Whitacre • P.O. Box 1024 • Yerington, Nevada • 89447 • carperanam@aol.com

Thanks again for playing my music!

Eric Whitacre

GODZILLA EATS LAS VEGAS!

ADVANCE COPY SCRIPT

* * * P A R T O N E * * *

FADE UP

It is a Bright and Sunny day as the sequined curtain rises on tinsel town, and the excitement of a new day filled with the possibility of The Big Payoff is practically palpable. The band kicks off the show in high gear and all is well as we suddenly hear:

CUT TO DESERT

A lone shakuhachi flute ushers the arrival of something really VERY bad.

CUT BACK TO BAND

A relaxed rhumba. showgirls blissfully jiggle.

CUT TO MILITARY COMMAND CENTER (stock footage)

Morse code signals the confirmation of approaching doom.

CUT BACK TO BAND

The players finish off their third set and head for the bar; outside we hear:

SLOW ZOOM

Oh no, oh no, oh no, it's:

CLOSE UP

Godzilla! Glorious Godzilla!

VARIOUS QUICK CUTS (stock footage)

Godzilla destroys cars, screaming tourists, etc.

CUT BACK TO BAND

The band, quasi Greek Chorus, calls for Godzilla to Mambo.

GODZILLA, FULL FRAME

Godzilla mambos, casually crushing hysterical Vegans without missing a step.

EXTREME CLOSE UP

A tiny terrier barking bravely, then:

CUT BACK TO GODZILLA

Demolishing everything in his path... not even the doggie escapes!

WIDE PAN

As Godzilla heads down the strip, searching relentlessly for:

CLOSE UP (stock footage)

Frank Sinatra (Stomped!)

CLOSE UP (stock footage)

Wayne Newton (Stamped!)

CLOSE UP (stock footage)

Liberace (Stepped upon!)

VARIOUS CUTS

The Village Gods destroyed, Godzilla continues his carnage until The City of Sin is leveled!

* * * P A R T T W O * * *

FADE UP

A fearless army of Elvises (Elvi) appear in the distance, formation marching through the littered streets

VARIOUS CLOSE UPS

The Elvi attack, using bombers, missiles, etc.

EXTREME CLOSE UP

One wicked laugh from Godzilla and the Elvi scatter like mice!

QUICK CUT (stock footage)

The Sphinx sits outside The Luxor, looking seductive in a Mae West sort of way.

CLOSE UP

Godzilla takes one look and his eyes pop out of his head.

QUICK CUTS

The Sphinx (Sphinxtruss?) seduces the Reptile, who instantly falls in love and begins to:

WIDE SHOT

Tango with her.

SPLIT SCREEN

As they dance, the Elvi slowly regroup and head for the:

QUICK CUT (stock footage)

Pirate ships at Treasure Island

ACTION SEQUENCE (MONTAGE)

The Elvi approach the dancing monster and launch a ferocious volley of cannonballs directly at him.

QUICK CLOSE UPS

The cannonballs find their mark, and Godzilla:

WIDE SHOT

Falls to the ground, annihilated. The Elvi are triumphant!

CROSSFADE

The lounge is open again, and the city of Las Vegas toasts the victory. The scene climaxes with:

VARIOUS CUTS (stock footage)

People happy, tearful, etc. Stock footage, stock music.

SLOW FADE OUT AND FADE UP

A dark, ominous, and VERY familiar sound...

SLOW ZOOM

Godzilla lives! Godzilla lives! Complete terror (possible sequel?).

WIDE SHOT

The Show is over. The End.

FADE TO BLACK