

Metallic Origami is a set of five short movements written for (mostly) metal instruments. Inspired by the ancient art of paper folding – *origami* - and the composer’s imagining of folded-metal creations, each movement expresses in “folded sound” a representation of different origami shapes composed of different metals. Each movement is also based loosely on the poetic form of *haiku*, which have three terse, intense phrases in the pattern of five - seven – five syllables. As the work was being written, the composer wrote haiku to accompany each movement. Like the music in each movement, each verse seeks to see these familiar childhood paper-creations through the character of each of the chosen metals: bright stars of gold; a moving crane of silver, with folding wings and bending neck; the four-pointed “fortuneteller” formed from sheets of hardened steel; many-faceted snowflakes of brittle titanium; and a ferocious dragon cast in iron.

Metallic Origami was written for Jack Delaney and the Meadows Wind Ensemble, and is scored for Piccolo, 4 Flutes, 3 Trumpets, 4 French Horns, 3 Trombones, Tuba, and a large percussion ensemble.

Metallic Origami

Robert J. Frank

- I. lucky golden stars
children yearn to capture them
...sparkles in their eyes
- II. silent silver crane
bending down to waters deep.
regal fisherman
- III. fortuneteller speaks!
calamity strikes like steel
or peace may blossom
- IV. crystalline snowflakes
cut through bitter winter winds
like titanium
- V. terrible fire!
savage fury unleashed when
iron dragon roars!

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