

THE NEW OBJECTIVIST

On commission from the Base4 Percussion Quartet, *The New Objectivist* reflects my struggles with the philosophy of the 20th century novelist, Ayn Rand. While I thoroughly enjoy her two masterpieces, *Atlas Shrugged* and *The Fountainhead*, I have always struggled with her assertion that man, while heroic, is an end in himself. In personal terms, I do consider a man a great and noble creature, never to be at the sole service of other men. And I do recognize that we do work out of a basic selfishness, however, it is only by God's grace that we are able to do so.

I do not believe that atheism needs to be the only means of explaining that people can be truly great beings. To acknowledge our creator does not negate that we are special or mean that we are simply tools for other men. Instead, I believe that a dynamic personal relationship with God is the only way to truly achieve our greatest state of being. I do respect so much of Ayn Rand's philosophy of objectivism, and while I do recognize that I may be committing a grievous error in the eyes of objectivists the whole world round, I believe it is God's will that mankind live by most of the basic principles put forth in her philosophy, even though she detested the notion of God and His supreme majesty over man.

So, *The New Objectivist* does not aim to make a case for theist objectivity. It simply reflects my state of mind in struggling with the notion of it. The fundamental idea reflected is that man searches and searches, often stumbling upon greatness by means of himself. However, it is not until the individual comes to terms with God in the most honest and humble way that this greatness reaches clarity and fullness of being. It is by God's glory that all things are truly wonderful, because though man creates so many wonderful things, it is only by God's grace and our free will given by him that it can be so.

THE NEW OBJECTIVIST (CONT'D)

In closing, the birth of this piece reflects the truth of much of Rand's ideas. While I do hold a mutual respect with the performers of Base4, I acknowledge that it is only out of a common goal for greatness in achievement that this piece is brought to life. We do not need each other in the common sense of the word, but it is for a common goal that we sought each other out. It is our mutual passion for the progress of percussive art that this piece is born and I am thrilled for the members of Base4 to be the catalyst of this piece. It demands extraordinary precision, fluidity in performance and clarity of thought, and above all, the fiery passion that brings people to music in the first place. While it is a very meticulous piece, it demands a visceral performance with reckless abandon. Good luck. (Spring, 2005)

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