**Leaps & Bounds** for trombone and piano, a 14 minute composition in one movement, was commissioned by Los Angeles trombonist Andrew Malloy in 2010.

The piece's name is inspired by some of its musical elements. For instance, the main theme consists of a succession of large melodic intervals (sixths). Subsequently there are passages of jumpy interaction between the two instruments, while the quiet piano solo at the center of the composition is again characterized by large melodic leaps.

The trombone moves through the piece encountering a variety of musical environments. Quiet, contemplative passages are contrasted by funky grooves ... a reoccurring section (with mute) mimics a mellow big band, while there is almost a slapstick quality to some other stretches ... lyricism and tenderness alternate with energetic outbursts and hard-charging rhythms.

Gernot Wolfgang

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