

David Gilmore Group

Ensemble members: David Gilmore—guitar (composer)
George Colligan—piano
Brad Jones—bass
Gene Jackson—drums
Abdou Mboup—percussion, vocals
Gino Sitson—vocals, percussion
Marcus Strickland—saxophone

Title of the commissioned work: African Continuum

Instrumentation:
guitar; piano; bass; drums; percussion; vocals; saxophone

Composer's Statement:

"This piece starts with a primary rhythmic pulse that essentially carries through the whole piece, representing the continuum of African music. The tempo never changes, but rather there are metric modulations and polymeters that distinguish the different sections. The intro section starts out with the drums playing in 4/4 time but with a 12/8 pattern (the continuum), which returns periodically throughout the piece. The chords are phrased in bars of 6/4, 6/4 and 4/4. In the next section (section I), the drums and percussion continue the same 4/4 pattern, but the harmonic and melodic rhythm is playing in 5/4+7/4, 5/4+7/4. In other words, three measures of the drum phrase = two measures of the ensemble phrase. After a drum/percussion interlude comes a more complicated section where the drums continue in it's primary 4/4 (12/8) pattern, and the bass and piano play a line that is rhythmically based off of the half note triplet relationship to the 4/4). The triplet is played in groups of 4, establishing a slower 4/4 under the faster one. After going in and out of this metric modulation with melody and improvisation (sections II and III), the ensemble eventually falls together in the slower, triplet-based 4/4 rhythm (tempo still the same as in the beginning of the tune) establishing section III. Even in this section, the drums have a different meter (3/4) than the rest of the ensemble (4/4) but they both meet up every 12 beats. Next the ensemble falls into the 3/4 feel that the drums established in the previous section, setting up a waltz-like groove for the eventual piano solo (section IV). Section IIIb returns briefly, but has an altered melody at the end which contains 8th note triplets. These triplets equal the quarter note pulse of the next section (V) which is the fastest and most intense segment of the composition, bringing vocal melody and collective improvisation together. A breakdown interlude of drums and percussion follows, with the eventual resolution to the same material as in the Intro sections."

Length of the work: 30 Minutes
Recording: Available. Please contact the artist directly.

Stated Technical Requirements:

"1) Sufficient size performance space and a suitable PA system to properly reinforce the sound of the instruments, particularly for the vocalists, acoustic piano, and percussion.
2) Mobile professional recording equipment to do a studio quality recording of the live performance(s). 3) A quality rehearsal space for preparation of the music, minimum 2-3 days"

Contact Information:

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