

Myra Melford's Be Bread

Ensemble members: Myra Melford--piano and harmonium
Brandon Ross--guitars or Ben Goldberg--clarinets
Cuong Vu--trumpet
Stomu Takeishi--bass;
Elliot Humberto Kavee--drums

Title of the commissioned work: The Whole Place Goes Up

Instrumentation:

Piano, harmonium, Bb clarinet, contralto clarinet and/or electric guitar and acoustic soprano guitar, trumpet, bass, and drums

Composer's Statement:

"The suite, *The Whole Place Goes Up*, is comprised of ten pieces, running approximately 70 minutes in length, and was inspired by my experiences studying Hindustani music in India in 2000-1. The title comes from a line in a Rumi poem and is a play on the word 'place,' which is the translation of 'Desh,' the raag on which the melody is based. While many of the melodic themes draw on North Indian raags (modes) and some of the rhythmic ideas come from the Dhaki (tribal) drumming of West Bengal, which I frequently encountered on holidays in Calcutta, I don't adhere to the conventions of traditional Indian composition or performance, and I apply my own ideas to develop the material.

Other musics that have found their way into my language as a jazz composer are also present, including Afro-Cuban clave, Arabic music, and contemporary classical. I didn't begin composing immediately upon my return from India, but rather waited to see what would emerge naturally. One of the things I notice about this music is the layers of simultaneous activity, not unlike life in modern-day India; a continual bombardment of the senses and a mingling of the peace of the ancient with the hustle of the present."

Length of the work: 70 minutes

Recording: Available. Please contact the artist directly.

Stated Technical Requirements:

"A grand piano (preferably Steinway B or larger) tuned to A440 on the day of the concert; adjustable piano bench, with four legs (approximately 18 inches high); 3X3X1 foot riser for the harmonium (artist will provide own audio technica mics (2), which require phantom power); jazz drum kit, with 18 – 20 inch bass drum; High quality bass amp and speaker; High quality PA, with good mics for trumpet and clarinets and/or high quality guitar amp and mic for acoustic guitar; 4 monitors with individual mixes, 4 music stands. 2 DI boxes. Stand lights, if necessary.

Contact Information:

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