

Dead Cat Bounce

Ensemble members: Matt Steckler— saxophone, flute (composer)
Jared Sims— saxophone, clarinet
Charlie Kohlhase— saxophone
Drew Sayers— saxophone
Arie Werbrouck—acoustic bass
Bill Carbone—drums

Title of the commissioned work: Chance Episodes

Instrumentation:
saxophones; flute; clarinet; acoustic bass; drums

Composer's Statement:
"A day comes when we will challenge our pride, asking, 'Did I really shape my own destiny?' Single episodes recur in one's imagination, to which the response may be nostalgia, relief, helplessness or fear. Each episode, for better or for worse, appears to be a slave to chance. One begins to think in probabilities and all other possible outcomes. Call into question the very method by which random moments in time come back to us much later, memorably. Or how casual musical ramblings resurface as inspiration further down the road. Are even our own minds a slave to chance? It is, musically speaking, more suite-like than others I've composed in the past. Not only does the idea of chance episodes apply to all nine pieces programmatically, but thematic material resurfaces - as in the *Watkins Glen-Madame Bonsilene* example - while the bookend pieces *Celebrate by Dying* and *Livin' the Dream* complement one another, having been composed practically in the same breath. Jazz is a chance-taking medium, and as a band we will take more chances - to yield new discoveries - by digging deeper into this material."

Length of the work: 55–70 Minutes
Recording: Available. Please contact the artist directly.

Stated Technical Requirements:
"For smaller performance spaces: power access for a bass amp, preferably 1-2 mics through a sound system to amplify occasional flute and clarinet.
For larger performance spaces and spaces located overseas: complete backline of drums, acoustic upright bass, pickup and bass amp preferred; 4 sax mics and 1 extra mic for flute/announcements needed in festival settings."

Contact Information:
Composer: Matthew Steckler
Booking contact person: Matt Steckler
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