

Rob Levit Group

Ensemble members: Rob Levit—guitar (composer)
Chris Cheek—tenor and soprano saxophone
Amy Shook—acoustic bass
Frank Russo—drums

Title of the commissioned work: Perceptual Deaths

Instrumentation:
guitar; tenor and soprano saxophone; acoustic bass; drums

Composer's Statement:

"Perceptual Depths was written in Summer 2001 and was to be recorded on 9/11. It was recorded a few weeks after 9/11 and was then performed on a tour of Maryland and Virginia.

Perceptual Depths centers around two concepts: 1) writing pieces that address a particular aspect on how music is perceived by listener, performer, and composer. Toward that end, I viewed each composition as a sort of puzzle that would create unconventional improvisational material and thus, unique listening experience for an audience, and 2) writing parts that specifically challenged the performers but also appealed to their strengths at the same time.

Summary of the Pieces

Arc: Bossa Nova in 7/4 meter. Challenge of improvising over conventional chord structure with shifting meters. *Leonardo's Studio*: Sparse bass ostinato used for interactive solos and opening with melody three way counterpoint. *Such is Time*: Begins with notated drum solo with room for interpretation then head cycles thorough odd meters and form length. Group improvisation. *Little Piece of Sky*: Short melodic statement with dense interval material for open improvisation. *Safe Returns*: Folk-oriented and simple tune designed to create a texture rather than a jazz piece per se. *Seyir*: Rock-oriented piece with improvisation based on Turkish concept of seyir or pathway in improvisation. *Violet*: Romantic ballad in the Ellington tradition with odd number of bars for improvisation and unique sounding textural shifts."

Length of the work: 60–70 Minutes

Recording: Available. Please contact the artist directly.

Stated Technical Requirements:

"Ideal for black box or 100-150 seat room or theater, it is an accessible yet musically adventurous, requires a small PA system for larger rooms but can also be performed acoustically in recital rooms."

Contact Information:

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