

Chamber America

Ensemble: Ben Wendel Group

Bandleader: Ben Wendel

Ensemble members:

NAME	INSTRUMENT
Ben Wendel	Saxophone, bassoon
Adam Benjamin	Fender Rhodes
Tigran Hamasyan	Piano
Ben Street	Acoustic bass
Nate Wood	Drums
Nir Felder	Guitar

Title of Work: Six
Composer: Ben Wendel
Date completed: September 2009
Work Length: 50 minutes

Work Description:

I wrote a six movement jazz suite that has the compositional weight associated with a classical piece combined with the specific improvisational skills of the proposed ensemble. In the spirit of Duke Ellington or countless other jazz composers, I wrote to the strengths and unique abilities of the ensemble members.

The original use of the word "suite" comes from the 17th century name given to a set of dances - I wrote a modern interpretation of this concept. The movements are loosely based around the following ideas: Prelude, Allemande, Courante, Sarabande, Intermezzi, and Gigue. As a contemporary composer, I did not necessarily write a Spanish dance in 3/4 for the Sarabande or a German dance in 4/4 for the Allemande. The movements listed above served more as inspirational springboards for compositional direction (ie fast piece, slow piece, high energy, and low energy).

Taking full advantage of the various tonal palettes available in the group (acoustic and electric guitar, tonal and non-tonal soundscapes produced by keyboard, bassoon, saxophone and melodica), my composition reflects and augments the skill sets of my ensemble.

Recording:

Sunnyside Records, 2011

Technical Requirements/Specs:

Basic backline/amplification for sextet: Drums, Piano, Fender Rhodes w/ amplification, Bass amplifier, Guitar amplifier, and Keyboard amplifier (for Bassoon)

General Information:

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