

icy blue sky!  
It was a fearful thing  
to come into a man's heart  
at that time; that stone  
over the little blinking stars  
they'd set there.

BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY  
THURSDAY OCTOBER 20

NEW MUSIC FESTIVAL  
7:30PM KOBACKER

undercurrent (2010) .....Takuma Itoh  
BGSU New Music Ensemble, Christopher Dietz, director

Octavian Moldovean, flute/  
piccolo  
Lydia Dempsey, oboe  
Lucas Gianini, clarinet  
Jack Smolenski, bassoon

Garrett Krohn, horn  
Jonathan Britt, trumpet  
Kyle McConnell, trombone  
Nick Fox, percussion  
Emily Morin, piano

Teresa Bellamy, violin I  
Anna Eyink, violin II  
Kathryn Kibbe, viola  
Aleksander Tengesdal, cello  
Kory Reeder, bass

being as one (2013).....Dai Fujikura  
Hillary LaBonte, soprano  
Gunnar Owen Hirthe, bass clarinet  
Aleksander Tengesdal, cello

Text: Harry Ross

**view of the observatory**

*A star burns as a star  
Light becomes light  
Because our murmuring  
Strengthens us, and warms the night  
(Osip Mandelstam)*

We  
neutron stars  
drawn together not attracted as  
inevitable and solid as matter

forming in us reformed

Trinity

intensity

regularity

mystery

By us all clocks are set

Dancing  
entwined

tick in rhythm

amazed

watching our traces bear

Discovery

another fact

there exists not only death but love  
as inevitable and solid as matter

proving our being as one

Fractal Miniatures (2012/14) ..... Roger Zare  
BGSU New Music Ensemble, Christopher Dietz, director

Kenneth Cox, flute/piccolo

Emily Morin, piano

Erin Cameron, clarinet/bass

Teresa Bellamy, violin

Nick Fox, percussion

Aleksander Tengesdal, cello

I. Sierpinski Triangle, Iteration I

II. Flowsnake

III. Newton Fractal

IV. Dragon Curve, Iteration I

V. Mandelbrot Set

VI. Dragon Curve, Iteration II

VII. Nova Fractal

VIII. Sierpinski Triangle, Iteration II

The beauty and order of fractals never ceases to amaze me, from the simplicity of the Sierpinski Triangle to the incredible complexity within the Mandelbrot set. I am mesmerized by videos that zoom ad infinitum into one of these fractals, revealing the same shapes over and over, gradually transformed by subtle and complex processes. In Fractal Miniatures, I have strung eight short movements together that each reflect my impressions of various fractals, taking them as pieces of art.

The eight movements are arranged symmetrically, with the fifth movement as the focal point. The outer movements, named after the famous Sierpinski Triangle, are rhythmic and unyielding, pounding away at incessant rhythms through massive swells and dips. The second movement, flowsnake, is a spoonerism of snowflake, and is a simple space-filling fractal. This movement concentrates on sinewy flowing lines that spiral around one another. The third and seventh movements both open the same way, with the cello and percussion fading in ethereally into a pointillistic texture. The third movement, Newton Fractal continues this idea in a somewhat fitful manner, with various instruments taking turns with interjections. The seventh, Nova Fractal, is more linear, featuring a muted trumpet solo over an amorphous soup of string trills.

The fourth and sixth movements are named after the Dragon Curve, another space-filling curve. These two movements are abrupt and explosive, with sharp attacks and caustic gestures. They are also almost-exact mirror images of each other. The central movement of the set is named for arguably the most easily-recognized fractal, the Mandelbrot Set.

Scored without percussion, the musical shape of this movement mimics the characteristic bulbous shape of the fractal. An underlying ostinato in 7/8 sets the stage for soaring lines and expansive harmonies.

Tangled Loops (1996) ..... Jason Eckardt  
Gunnar Owen Hirthe, clarinet  
Stephanie Titus, piano

As its title implies, a characteristic of this composition is the irregular return of material. Specific gestural and harmonic elements can be heard cycling through the work and unifying disparate musical sections through their reappearance. Their repetition, however, is rarely exact; certain features of the returning music are reconfigured. Rather than recurring periodically, the reiterations occur at uneven intervals, at times overlapping, other times embedded within one another. This compositional strategy is the premise for the work's formal design, which distributes material in complex and unpredictable loops.

Tangled Loops was commissioned by Taimur Sullivan, to whom it is dedicated. I am grateful to the MacDowell Colony for granting me the opportunity to compose a significant portion of this work during a residency there in June, 1996.

Winter Sunset (2016) ..... Christopher Dietz

Hillary La Bonte, soprano

Kenneth Cox, flute

Derek Emch, clarinet

Gunnar Owen Hirthe, bass clarinet

Christopher Murphy, baritone saxophone

Aaron Hynds, tuba

Kathryn Jo Kibble, viola

Alexsander Tengesdal, cello

Henrique Batista, percussion

Zachary Nyce & Nick Fox, piano

*Text: William Carlos Williams, "Winter Sunset."*

*A Book of Poems: Al Que Quiere! Boston: Four Seas, 1917. 21-22.*

Then I raised my head  
and stared out over  
the blue February waste  
to the blue bank of hill  
with stars on it  
in strings and festoons---  
but above that:  
    one opaque  
    stone of a cloud  
    just on the hill  
    left and right  
as far as I could see;  
    and above that  
    a red streak, then