



Charles Argersinger

Notes

Concerto for Piano and Chamber Orchestra

A brief description ...

The Concerto in one movement was written for Chicago pianist, David Schrader, who recorded the work in the summer of 1990 with members of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, and was funded by a major grant from Washington State University. The public premiere took place in March 1992 by the Alabama Symphony Orchestra with soloist, Bruce Murray.

Much of the harmonic and melodic material springs from the opening chord, A-F-G#, which can be thought of variously as an incomplete, enharmonic augmented-major 7th chord, a conflicting, enharmonic major third and minor third above the note F, or as the set [0,1,4] in set notation. This sonority accommodates the octatonic scale which is a melodic resource for the work. Strict planing of 3rd and 6th intervals is designed to create maximum chromatic cross relations, and generates some of the harmonic material. Chains of suspensions employing contemporary dissonances are important surface and middleground structural events. Throughout, the soloist creates pyrotechnic displays of technique, often through the composite interaction of the two hands.

Tight organization on the motivic and architectural levels ultimately give way to the dramatic curve which is of paramount importance in the composer's mind.