

Fallen Leaves Gather (2006)
for 10 players and 2 conductors
Jason Levis

duration: non-specified (approx. 10 min.)

I am inspired by the idea that people can build music together spontaneously and that in that creative moment there is the potential for joy. With that in mind I put this piece together for two conductors/composers and 10 players.

Each conductor cues a mixed ensemble of 5 players, each utilizing the same musical material (sound objects), through cue cards and hand gestures. The conductors spontaneously develop the piece via juxtaposition and responding to the performer's micro-developments to create a large sonic mosaic. The over arching form becomes apparent reflexively as the sound objects are re-focused and re-contextualized.

The title comes from a Haiku by Yosa Buson (1716 - 1784 / Japan)

Blown from the west,
fallen leaves gather
in the east.

(translated by Robert Hass)

It conjures for me not only images of fall, but also the meaningless loss of life due to our current socio-political climate. I hope that in the creative moment and through the creative process, there can be more joy to balance so much suffering.

~ Jason Levis