

Sits Peacefully, the Incision Passes Through Illusion (2006)

for violin, piano, contrabass, and percussion

Jason Levis

duration: ~ 6 min.

Sits Peacefully, the Incision Passes Through Illusion is a piece that works with elements of contemporary composition and experimental improvisation. The goal is to combine the reflexive comprehension process of form in composition with the intuitive, spontaneous, developmental process of improvisation, to create a clear “sound world” for the performers to communicate and improvise in, as well as provide direction and unified momentum to the group, in a phrase; directed organic development. The notated material is a guideline to the performer and is developed over the course of the piece.

Collaboration between the lexicon of the composition and the lexicon of the performer emerges. The performers’ learning process of a piece like this is to understand the material, the guidelines, as fully as possible and through understanding the rhythms, pitches, qualities of timbre, physicality of gestures, etc. the performer develops an intuitive sense of what fits in the “sound world.” Through this combination of guidelines for musical material, and development through improvisation, *Sits Peacefully, the Incision Passes Through Illusion* has a consistent sound and emotional dramaturgy, as well as fresh spontaneity each time it is performed.

~ Jason Levis