

COLLIDING OBJECTS
Interactions for Piano and Percussion

David Kechley

for
Doris Stevenson
and
Matthew Gold

Program Notes

COLLIDING OBJECTS was written for Doris Stevenson and Matthew Gold for a premiere at the Barge Music series in Brooklyn, NY for the 2007-2008 Concert Season.

The work is in three discrete movements, which are played without pause and although many specific musical ideas permeate the entire piece, each of movement is quite different in its musical sensibility and approach to texture. *Dragon's Dance* refers to an earlier work, *In the Dragon's Garden*, which itself was inspired by several visits to Ryoangi, a temple in Kyoto, Japan and home to one of the world's most famous Zen rock gardens. The texture exploits color and rhythm to create seemingly random although very precise, patterns as it builds to its modal climax. *Dramatic, Delicate, and Dreamlike* aptly describes the three qualities, which coexist in this movement as it explores a variety of new textures and harmonies. *Duels and Dialogues* refers quite clearly to just how the two performers interact in this fast and driving movement. For example, the pianist, is called upon to play percussion instruments in the first two movements in more subtle ways, but in this movement drops all pretense of civility as the piece reaches its somewhat heated climax.

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To further facilitate successful performance of this work, program notes and a brief biography of the composer are included in the score.

Composer Biography

Since the 1968 premiere of *Second Composition for Large Orchestra* by the Seattle Symphony, David Kechley has produced works in all genres which have been performed both nationally and internationally. Ensembles that have performed or commissioned Kechley's work include the Minnesota Orchestra, Boston Pops, Cleveland Orchestra, Seattle Symphony, North Carolina Symphony, Colorado Symphony, United States Military Academy Band, Kronos String Quartet, and the Minneapolis and North Carolina Guitar Quartets. His music is recorded on the Liscio Recordings, Albany Records, and Reference Recording labels.

Among Kechley's awards are a Fellowship from the John Simon Guggenheim Foundation (1979), grants from the National Endowment for the Arts (1976, 1979), and a commission from the Barlow Foundation (1998). *Five Ancient Lyrics on Poems by Sappho* was first prize winner of the 1980-81 Shreveport Symphony Composers' Competition and *Concerto for Violin and Strings* won the 1979 Opus I Chamber Orchestra Contest for Ohio Composers. *In the Dragon's Garden*, a work for guitar and alto saxophone, was a winner of the 1994 Lee Ettelson Prize. *Lightning Images* received honorable mention in the 1994 ASCAP Nissim Competition and *Transformations: An Orchestral Triptych* was an honorable mention in that same competition in 1998. Kechley received Artist Fellowships from the North Carolina Arts Council in 1985 and from the Massachusetts Cultural Council in 1995 and 2005. *Restless Birds before the Dark Moon*, a work for alto saxophone and wind ensemble, was the winner of the 2000 National Band Association, William D. Revelli Memorial Band Composition Contest and he received a Copland House Award in 2007.

Born in Seattle, Washington, March 16, 1947, Kechley was educated at the University of Washington and the Cleveland Institute of Music. He is presently a member of the music faculty Williams College.

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Intense and Relentless $\text{♩} = 132$

I. Dragon's Dance

David Kechley

Mar/Perc.

Piano

f *p* *f*

f *p* *f*

silently depress and hold with sostenuto pedal until bar 11

chromatic cluster A to E at bottom of keyboard

7

p *f*

f *p*

11

Almglocken (always let ring)

mp

p *f* *p* *f* *p* *f* *p*

inside piano with hard mallet *mf* *f* *mf* *f*

17

And. (sempre)

f *p* *f* *p*

f *mf* *f*

22

mp

p *f* *p* *f* *p*

mf

26

Triangle *mp* (always let ring)

Almglocken *mf*

mf *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p*