

Notes on this afternoon's music

Urban Funk is a tribute to my Motor City roots and the time I spent as a student playing with an R&B/Funk band. Although angular and atonal, it has several recurring motives and a steady pulse peppered with syncopations and loud; pregnant rests to keep the listener alert. Throughout the introduction, main theme, development, recap, and coda, the trumpet doubles as drummer and "horn" section. Rests highlight the urgency of increasingly wide leaps that seem to pit high and low registers against each other. This is a stylized, slow motion battle that reaches a peak of fragmented motivic and rhythmic intensity before the main theme returns punctuated by longer rests that now serve to defuse the accumulated momentum. This short piece invites bolder listeners to entertain the possibility of an imagined or real desire to dance.

—BT

Music for Hi-hat and Computer (1998) was commissioned by the American percussionist J. Landy Cosgrove, and premiered in Denmark in March of 1998. The electronic part was created at the Hiller Computer Music Studios of the University at Buffalo, New York using the software Max, which was developed by Miller Puckette, whose technical support helped make this piece possible.