Trilogies

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The piece is made for a mirror-image group of grand piano (outside player), grand piano (inside player), and keyboard. The musical content plays on the symmetrical and antiphonal arrangement of the performers in a playful and virtuosic manner. The work centers on the exploration of a set of techniques derived from fluid “preparations” made through the combination of one player playing the keyboard of the piano and another playing the inside strings, and preparing these through the use of two hands alone. This allows for swift changes of preparation as well as a degree of coloristic improvisation. The piece is virtuosic yet delicate and at all times intimate.

The work was commissioned by Piano Circus and has been made possible through an award from the Britten Pears Foundation.

—Colin Riley

William Simpson and Simon McCorry have created an array of visual stimuli in collaboration with Piano Circus and Colin Riley. From the generative and synchronized to the reflective distortion of landscape and CCTV, these new works fuse the auditory and optical worlds to present a highly engaging and unique experience.

Colin Riley has continued to explore the interesting areas where musical aesthetics collide, his work taking fresh and original approaches to engaging with techniques from the avant-garde, jazz, and popular music. He has remained outside the perceived categories of new music during the last 20 years and remained a vibrant and unexpected musical voice, difficult to categorize.

www.colinriley.co.uk

In 2010 Fitkin created a new production for the Royal Ballet, a concerto for mid- and orchestra for harpist Signe Williams and the BBC Symphony Orchestra, and a new work for Ensemble 10/10.

www.fitkin.com

ABOUT PIANO CIRCUS

Piano Circus formed in 1989 to play Steve Reich’s Six Pianos and has since created a repertoire of over 100 works; the majority are written specially for the ensemble and include pieces by Kevin Volans, Julia Wolfe, Graham Fitkin, Brian Eno, Louis Andriessen, Erkki-Sven Tüür, Terry Riley, Nikki Yeoh, and Heiner Goebbels. Piano Circus has released seven CDs with Decca and now has three CDs available on its own label; the latest release is 2009’s Skin & Wire, featuring drummer Bill Bruford.

The six pianists have a broad range of experience, from traditional western classical music to jazz, pop and rock, improvisation, and composition. Piano Circus has worked in collaboration with film and video makers, theater and circus performers, dancers and choreographers, and in a variety of educational settings.

The group performs throughout the UK and tours internationally, with appearances including the Southbank Centre, London; Lincoln Center, New York; Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival, Edinburgh Festival, Bath International Festival, Big Chill, Enchanted Garden Festival, the Hong Kong and Singapore Festivals, the Istanbul Festival, NYDF Festival (Estonia), Musica Ficta Festival (Lithuania), MARTE, the CREA and 38eme Jugissians Festivals (France), Settembre Musica (Italy), Baffo Centre (Canada), and elsewhere in the USA, Sweden, the Netherlands, Portugal, and Spain.

The ensemble celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2009–10, curating the 20th09 Festival, supported by Arts Council England and PRS for Music Foundation, with a series of events across London including Hoxton Hall, Oxford House, Massbourne Community Academy, Brunel University, Trinity College of Music, and the Ether Festival at the Southbank Centre.

Piano Circus has a strong commitment to music education and has built a reputation for “hands on” good-quality education projects throughout its existence, both in the UK and internationally. Their education program has included projects at UK summer schools, Dartington Plus, and Yale in Gloriongan Festival; workshops in Indonesia, France, and Budapest; composition and technology sessions with Contemporary Music for All (CoMA); and workshops for London music universities and colleges.

Recent projects include a project in partnership with Newcastle and Durham Universities, as part of 13, the composition strand of the Centre for Excellence in Music and Inclusivity. Workshops in 2009–10 included the Exhibition Road Festival for young composers and performers, presenting the BBC Proms “Family Music Intro for Multiple Piano Day” broadcast on BBC Radio 3, Keyboard Collective Project (sound festival, Scotland), and the company’s new role as associate ensemble for Young Composer of Dyfed. They have been Associate Artists at Brunel University, West London, since 2004.

www.pianocircus.com

COMPANY ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Piano Circus acknowledges the support of the British Council, the Britten Pears Foundation, Brunel University, PRS for Music Foundation, and the Yamaha Corporation.
Piano Circus presents:

**Piano Circus**

Trilogies

David Appleton
Paul Cassidy
Kate Halas
Dawn Hardwick
Semra Kurutas
James Young

**PROGRAM**

US Premieres!

Squiggle Zipper, Ebb Cast, and Double Trio

Co林 Riley (b. 1963)

Film created by William Simpson and Simon McCorry.

~~Intermission~~

Leg Line, Loud

Graham Fitkin (b. 1963)

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