Trilogies

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The three pieces comprising this trilogy have all been commissioned by Piano Circus over the last five years and reflect many of the musical concerns I have been exploring. All three pieces also utilize visual elements with the music.

Squiggle Zipper
There are many elements of jazz and rock in this fast, sectional piece. The ensemble is used both as a powerful rhythm section, playing groove-based patterns at the start, and as a multiple set of soloists in the main bebop-type sections.

The piece was supported with funds from the PRS for Music Foundation (PRS). Ebb Cast
I have always enjoyed things that, on the surface or from a distance, appear simple, calm, and very beautiful, yet the more you look (or listen), the more complex and intricate they actually become. Overall this piece is a calm “slow movement” within which listeners can lose themselves—one full of ever-unraveling filigree and fast decorative lines on the inside and spacious chords on the outside.

The piece was supported with funds from the PRS for Music Foundation (PRS).

Double Trio
The three pieces comprising this trilogy for dance companies, including Shobana Jeyasingh, Wayne McGregor’s Random Dance, New York City Ballet, and the Bi-Ma, have created an array of polyphonic music, each slow passage acting as a massive upbeat to the following rhythmic section.

The Piano have 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 Enso, Louis Andriessen, Erkki-Sven Tiir, Tery Ferry, 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 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 Régissants Festivals (France), Settembre Musica (Italy), Banff Centre (Canada), and elsewhere in the USA. Sweden, the Netherlands, Portugal, and Spain.

The ensemble celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2009–10, curating the 2009/0 Festival, supported by Arts Council England and PRS for Music Foundation, with a series of events across London including Hoxton Hall, Oxford House, and Musbourne 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 Vale of Glamorgan 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 the commission 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 Brunel Piano Foundation, Brunel University, PRS for Music Foundation, and the Yamaha Corporation.
Peak Performances presents:

Piano Circus

Trilogies

David Appleton
Paul Cassidy
Kate Halsall
Dawn Hardwick
Semra Kurutaç
James Young

Program

US Premieres!
Squiggle Zipper, Ebb Cast, and Double Trio

Film created by William Simpson and Simon McCorrty.

~~Intermission~~

Leg Line, Loud

Graham Fitkin (b. 1963)

Alexander Kasser Theater

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I.Michael Kasser
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Matthew Mocha

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Piano Circus

Trilogies

October 1, 2011 • 8:00pm

Alexander Kasser Theater

Montclair State University