



molly joyce
composer // performer
mollysjoyce@gmail.com
www.mollyjoyce.com

Fluidity - Program Note

Fluidity is motivated by a process of juxtaposition and opposition, namely fluid versus accented musical material, and asking when and how such can converge and eventually emerge together. upon starting the piece I was particularly motivated by [sunflower]'s instrumentation of string quartet and percussion, and how the interplay between a seemingly unison sound body (strings) could support or play against the multi-timbral possibilities of percussion.

Additionally, I often love taking very small excerpts from favorite pop songs and sampling them out in acoustic and notated-music contexts. For this work, I took an excerpt from the singer Marcelle's song "O Affair," which has a trumpet-like short and staccato effect about midway through. I thought this effect might lend itself well to string pizzicato versus the very fluid possibilities of vibraphone and with juxtaposition of one string (violin II) holding sustained pitches throughout. The pizzicato effects from the violin I, viola, and cello are aided by a woodblock in the percussion part, and eventually these disparate yet similar parts come together at the very end of the work for a more unison convergence.

Lastly, I of course want to express my greatest gratitude to the musicians in [sunflower] for all of their hard work and dedication to the piece. I've very much enjoyed working with them and feel fortunate for the opportunity to continue performer collaborations during a time of mostly virtual connection, and certainly hope to meet and work with them all in person one day.