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Side by Side - Program Note

Side by Side was commissioned by Carnegie Hall as the first commission for their NYO2 (National Youth Orchestra 2) ensemble, conducted by Mei-Ann Chen. The work explores two seemingly disparate musical forces diverging, converging, and emerging together. The piece questions if contrasting elements of attack and sustain are as different as they may seem, and potential unifications and distinctions that arise.

Additionally, the work was commissioned as a digital video, and therefore envisioned in the final product is video captions including sound descriptions by blind media artist Andy Slater (which describe the aural/sound content for artistic and accessibility purposes, especially helpful for Deaf/hard-of-hearing audiences), and video editing by Four/Ten Media and direction by Austin Regan.