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Plus and Minus - Program Note

Commissioned by Arizona State University and guitarist Jiji, *Plus and Minus* explores the sonic extremes of electric guitar through an on and off interaction with the guitarist's distortion pedal, as a means of electronic processing as well as theatrical interaction and synergy.

Much of my output as a composer involves electronic elements, with sounds typically sourced from acoustic instruments, from which I process to provide for a kind of "backing" track for the live performer to play with. However I had minimally explored writing for an instrument that uses electricity and fundamentals of electronics as its sound source, and thus also one that only involves live electronics. Therefore the opportunity to write to Jiji, an incredibly accomplished performer on acoustic and electric guitar, allowed me to utilize training and experience working with acoustic instruments and electronic processing, and apply such to a purely live situation.