

Nonsense or Sorcery?##*! (2006) - in memoriam György Ligeti

Musically, the different states explored in this piece range from the diffuse to the muscular (and various terrain in between). The gestures that resulted from these different textures were also influenced by the wave/particle duality of light. Lines appear laser-like at certain moments, and then spark like fireworks the next. The serpentine melodies, drawn-out tonal centers, and rhythmic propulsion were undoubtedly influenced by North Indian classical music. The harmonic language consists of scales made up of modal fragments framed by the open strings of the violin and cello. Specifically, it was the music of György Ligeti that inspired me to create the feeling of a constantly evolving scale (which can sound "nonsensical" at times). Vertically, these scales coagulate into jazz-tinged chords by the end of the piece.

The title of my piece is in reference to a Carlos Casteneda book that deals with the idea of transformation. Through his exposure to sorcery, Casteneda learned to gracefully accept life's transitions. I believe that composing this piece taught me to gracefully allow transitions in my music.