Baptism
for two flutes, two drums, glockenspiel, and organ (harmonium or electric keyboard)

by Kyle Gann
1983
Baptism (1983) was written as a companion piece for Mountain Spirit, back when I was first living on my own in Chicago and thought I might try to put together my own Steve Reich-style chamber ensemble. I was much involved in American Indian music at the time, and Baptism is an ecumenical attempt to progressively intertwine two hymns: the Apache hymn "Daxiiasee Bizraaa" (Son of Our Father) of the Native American church (recorded in 1969 on the old ASCH Mankind Series), and the Protestant hymn "Jesus Paid It All." Towards the end of the piece the two hymns get separated out and quoted in their entirety. The piece proceeds through seven stages (I had in mind at the time Swedenborg's account of the seven days of creation or something), marked by an accelerating and decelerating arch form of tempo shifts. As a kind of cornerstone of my "naive pictorialism" aesthetic, the piece is one I still feel affectionate towards. It is dedicated to the conductor James MacDonald, a good friend who conducted the premiere.

World premiere: May 13, 1983, at ARC Gallery in Chicago

Duration: 12 minutes
crazy, stately
\( q = 80 \)

 Kyle Gann
1983

to James MacDonald

Baptism

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subito faster $q = 88$

$40$

$\text{Fl. 1}$

$\text{Fl. 2}$

$\text{Dr. 1}$

$\text{Dr. 2}$

$\text{Org.}$

\( \text{Baptism} \)
Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Dr. 1

Dr. 2

Org.

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February - April, 1983
Chicago, Illinois

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