Mountain Spirit

for two flutes, two drums, and synthesizer

Kyle Gann
1982-3
Mountain Spirit (1982-3)

In 1982, fresh out of grad school, I had written a series of soft, non-synchronous pieces, and I wanted to prove to myself that I could write something with more rhythmic energy. I wrote *Mountain Spirit* and *Baptism* as a pair of pieces for the same ensemble, and performed them as such. They were my first pieces employing Native American melodies, in which I had found some new rhythmic ideas for ensemble music, and which I continued to use on and off for sixteen years up through *Custer and Sitting Bull* (1995-99). *Mountain Spirit* is based on an Apache "Mountain Spirit" song, which is quoted in its entirety starting at mm. 47, 74, 114, and 140. The piece is a little odd, perhaps, but I have a soft spot for it, hearing in it many of the formal and melodic proclivities I would spend my life developing.

The synthesizer should have an organ-like sound and a sustain pedal. The two drums should be differentiated in size and pitch, and be played with fairly soft mallets. (For the premiere I used two from my collection of American Indian drums.) The original manuscript has "shadow parts" for trombone and piano, but before the performance I decided these were a poor idea, an opinion I still hold.

Duration: almost twelve minutes

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Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Dr. 1

Dr. 2

Synth.

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Sept. 1982 - March 1983
Chicago, Ill.