New World Coming

for solo bassoon
with flute (or oboe),
violin (or viola), and piano

by Kyle Gann
2001
New World Coming takes its title from "There's a New World Coming," a 1975 spiritual by folk singer and civil rights activist Bernice Johnson Reagon. The song, rendered all the more urgent and relevant by the stolen election of November 2000, is quoted in the middle of the piece, and one of its motives runs throughout. I wrote the piece in August of 2001 for bassoonist Tamara Plummer, a student then doing a senior project on the history of spirituals. Like several of my works, this one owes much to the meticulous beauty of William Duckworth's music. In retrospect, I also notice that its ritornello structure and bitonality hark back to a piece that was dear to me as a teenager, Darius Milhaud's irrepressible Le Boeuf sur le Toit.

World premiere: April 17, 2002, At Olin Auditorium, Bard College; by bassoon soloist Tamara Plummer and the Da Capo ensemble

Duration: 6 1/2 minutes
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Flute

Violin

Bassoon

Piano

$ \frac{d}{b} = 66 \text{ with barely suppressed excitement}$

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New World Coming
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150

155
New World Coming
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smooth, no element predominating

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August 8 - 16, 2001
Red Hook, NY
Lewisburg, PA

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