Summer Serenade

for organ

by Kyle Gann
2014
Summer Serenade (2014)

I had owed composer/organist Gerhard Stäbler an organ piece for thirty years. Whenever I tried to write for the damn thing, it just didn’t work out. But then Carson Cooman e-mailed me one day suggesting I write one for him. He wrote, “For some time, I've imagined broadly in my mind a extremely nice Gannian organ piece in your quiet, beautiful, tranquil/gentle vein. No particularly significant dynamic or timbre change, but just happening.” It was the perfect thing to say. I had just had my hands on the piano playing the lovely chord that ends my Catskill Set, and I instantly realized it was voiced perfectly to sound good on the organ, and that the pedals (taking the lowest, almost unreachable note) would free up the hands for some subtle counterpoint. From that moment I could hardly pause until I finished the piece.

Kyle Gann

Duration: 15 minutes
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See appendix for rhythmic clarification
For ease in playing, the cumulative rhythm of the three moving lines in mm. 219-227 is given in the line underneath the staves below, with the left-hand notes marked by asterisks (note that the rhythm in 223-226 is the same as in 219-222, and that 227 is like 219):