SURREALITIES

for three-octave toy piano or celesta

by Kyle Gann

2012-13
Surrealities (2012-13)
For three-octave toy piano or celesta

For my 57th birthday my wife gave me a three-octave toy piano (F to F). I was in the mood to work out some ideas within extreme limitations, so I wrote these pieces for it. Each piece is based on some idea, or juxtaposition of ideas, that shouldn’t work, and I wanted to make it work. Bitonality is common, and the French composer Darius Milhaud was much on my mind. “Disaggregated Harmonies” is a canon at the major seventh, in which the complete harmonies result from the collision of the two lines; the main idea bears a certain resemblance to a piece from Schoenberg’s Op. 19, but was not intended as homage. Likewise, “Circling the Horizon” is not meant as a reference to the karate move of that name; one hand goes through the entire range of keys while the other stays put. “Incommensurate Quantities” is a bitonal canon at the diminished fourth.

The movements are:

Axioms of the Wind
Deep Denial
Disaggregated Harmonies
Circling the Horizon
Unaccommodating Polka
Incommensurate Quantities
Mistimed Adieu

Duration: 17 minutes

The piece is dedicated to Nancy.
accidentals only apply to the immediate note, except for repeated chords
Surrealities: Axioms of the Wind
Surrealities: Axioms of the Wind
Deep Denial

Lyrical, with a gentle bounce

Kyle Gann
2012-13

Accidentals apply until barline, as usual
Surrealities: Deep Denial

Completed January, 2013
Germantown, NY
Disaggregated Harmonies

a canon at the major seventh

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2012-13

Toy Piano

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\( j = 96 \)
Germantown, NY

Surrealities: Disaggregated Harmonies
Circling the Horizon

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2013
Surrealities: Circling the Horizon

January 22-28, 2013
Germantown, NY
Unaccommodating Polka

Kyle Gann
2013
Incommensurate Quantities
a canon at the diminished fourth

Kyle Gann
2012

roughly $d = 112$

Toy Piano
November 27-28, 2012
Germantown, NY

Surrealities: Incommensurate Quantities
Mistimed Adieu

Kyle Gann
2012-3

\( \text{\textit{Toys piano}} \)

\( \text{\textit{Mistimed Adieu}} \)

\( \text{\textit{Kyle Gann}} \)

\( \text{\textit{2012-3}} \)
Surrealities: Mistimed Adieu
Germantown, NY

Surrealities: Mistimed Adieu