

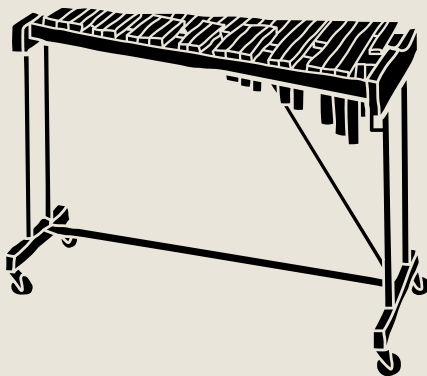
Kuo Yan-Shin

PERCUSSION RECITAL

Rooted

Brian Blume

Snare drum solo with tape



Azure

Emil Kuyumcuyan

Marimba solo with tape

Buyan

John Psathas

Timpani solo with tape



Rooted by Brian Blume

The motivation for Rooted comes as a result of much reflection on the many changes my life has seen in recent years. Though seasons of change, many aspects of my life have been uprooted or thrown into disorder, yet some things remain and persist through those changes—my marriage, my family, and my faith in an immutable God. The piece also grew from meditation on Psalm 1, which speaks of one who is “like a tree planted by streams of water that yields fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither.” When we are rooted in the right things, trying changes of seasons do not have to break us, but instead, they can strengthen us.

Musically, I attempted to capture this through the persistence of the pitch G, as well as the G major harmony. We may leave G major, at times straying far away, but we always return. And even when the music travels elsewhere harmonically, the G is still present somewhere, reminding us of our roots. Certain rhythmic motifs occur throughout the piece as well, sometimes in altered forms, demonstrating change over time but rooted in the same material. Rooted also acknowledges the musical roots from which it has sprung, including the works of Bob Becker, Brad Mehldau, Arvo Pärt, and Francisco Turrisi, among others.

-Brian Blume

Azure

As a child or adult, I have spent unforgettable times around the Mediterranean coasts or on the prince islands of Istanbul. During the covid time, I had enormous longing or in german "Sehnsucht" for the sea. So I started to hear the piece as a journey, along the coasts around the waves, people, and cities. It is like an imaginary journey and returning to the same haven to share the stories.

The marimba solo and tape play together and complete each other rather than the tape being in background accompaniment. I had a Turkish pop influence that I grew up with, and it evolved more to the IDM world (intelligent dance music) that I like to listen to and produce. So I always wanted to combine marimba with those sound worlds.

-Emil Kuyumcuyan

Buyan

In Slavic mythology, Buyan is described as a mysterious island in the ocean with the ability to appear and disappear using tides. Three brothers-Northern, Western, and Eastern Winds-live there, and also the Zoryas solar goddesses who are daughters of the solar god Dazhbog. Koshcei the Deathless keeps his soul hidden there, secreted inside a needle placed inside an egg buried in a mystical tree. Legends call the island the source of all weather, created there and sent forth into the world by the god Perun.

Buyan is a workout! Testing the timpanist's proficiency in various techniques. Across its six minutes, the player navigates syncopated grooves in compound time, roll and glissandi techniques, and playing with fingers. Most challenging of all, is the extensive pedalling required to articulate the melodic material. Buyan moves fast, its timpani line skipping around the backing track's cinematic electronica. The variety of playing techniques in Buyan explores many of the subtleties offered by the timpani.

-John Psathas