

Alexandra Gardner

Ayehli

marimba and fixed electronics

(2002)

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A. Gardner Music

Alexandra Gardner

Ayehli

First Performance

March 17, 2003
Contemporary Music Forum
Corcoran Gallery of Art
Washington, DC
Barry Dove, marimba

Duration

11:35

About Ayehli

The title **Ayehli** (pronounced ah-YAY-lee) is the Cherokee word for twin—the literal translation is *other wing*.

For me, the word speaks to the relationship between the marimba and the electronic sounds; rising out of and falling into one another, melting together, always close.

The two primary sound sources for the electronic part are the marimba itself and recordings from the "Ground Zero" site in New York City, made at sunrise one morning in December 2001. The recordings capture ambient sound from the edge of the rescue site, as well as from inside the diner where the rescue workers took their meals. My intention in using this soundscape material was to transform the results of a tragedy into something more positive and beautiful.

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Ayehli Performance Notes

For electronic audio file, please contact alex@alexandragardner.net

In unmeasured sections, accidentals apply within their octave for one "block" of music (unless otherwise indicated).

In measured sections, accidentals apply within their octave for one measure.

The electronic part is a mixed stereo audio track to be played to the audience.

The marimba may be amplified with a small amount of reverb. A monitor may be necessary, depending on the performance space. The performer should seek to enter the electronic sound world as much as possible, guided by the score and written instructions. For example, crossfades between performer and electronics should sound as if the two parts are melting together. The goal is to create one seamless sonic entity.

Performer will need 8 yarn mallets—4 medium-hard and 4 medium-soft. (Mallet choices will vary according to the needs of the performance space.)

Clock timings are indicated throughout the score to help the performer stay oriented in time and note significant events and audible cues in the soundtrack. These timings are moderately flexible—1-2 seconds of “wiggle room” is always available. A stopwatch / timer may be used throughout the piece.

The audio track plays throughout the entire composition. The electronic rhythmic examples in the score are meant as a basic guide and are not exact.

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Duration: 11:35

Ayehli

marimba and fixed electronics

Alexandra Gardner

18" Smooth, steady, medium-hard mallets ♩ = ca. 60

Marimba

Electronic Track

play >> low frequency bass/noisy glitch sounds...

gradually insert the given notes and motifs into the previous pattern *a piacere*

1'00"

fade into audio track sounds...

1'30"

insert given notes into previous pattern

2'00"

PERUSAL SCOPE — NOT FOR PERFORMANCE

insert into previous pattern - sync all to audio track tempo

2'30"

First system of a musical score. The top staff is in bass clef and contains a wavy line followed by a boxed-in section of eighth and sixteenth notes with accents. The bottom staff is in treble clef and contains a few notes followed by a repeat sign and a wavy line. A vertical dashed line is at the end of the system.

3'00"

molto rubato
repeat as necessary

Second system of a musical score. The top staff is in bass clef and contains a continuous line of eighth and sixteenth notes. The bottom staff is in treble clef and contains a few notes followed by a wavy line. A vertical dashed line is at the end of the system.

sync to audio track tempo

3'30"

Third system of a musical score. The top staff is in treble clef and contains a few notes followed by a boxed-in section of eighth notes. The bottom staff is in bass clef and contains a few notes followed by a wavy line. A vertical dashed line is at the end of the system.

4'00"

a bit faster ♩ = ca. 72

Fourth system of a musical score. The top staff is in treble clef and contains a few notes followed by a boxed-in section of eighth notes. The bottom staff is in bass clef and contains a few notes followed by a wavy line. A vertical dashed line is at the end of the system.

Fifth system of a musical score. The top staff is in treble clef and contains a continuous line of eighth and sixteenth notes. The bottom staff is in bass clef and contains a few notes followed by a wavy line. A vertical dashed line is at the end of the system.

4'30"

First system of musical notation, measures 1-10. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). It contains a series of eighth-note patterns with repeat signs. The bottom staff is in bass clef and contains a single eighth note followed by a whole rest.

repeat until first hit on audio track

Second system of musical notation, measures 11-20. The top staff continues the eighth-note patterns. A box highlights measures 17-20, with the instruction "repeat until first hit on audio track" above it. The bottom staff is in bass clef and contains a single eighth note followed by a whole rest. A dynamic marking *f* is present at the start of measure 17.

4'46"

♩ = ca. 96

Third system of musical notation, measures 21-30. The top staff is in bass clef with a key signature of two flats. It contains a series of eighth-note patterns with repeat signs. The bottom staff is in bass clef and contains a series of eighth-note patterns. A dynamic marking *f* is present at the start of measure 21. A dynamic marking *f sempre* is present at the start of measure 25.

wild, frenzied, fluid

Fourth system of musical notation, measures 31-40. The top staff is in bass clef with a key signature of two flats. It contains a series of eighth-note patterns with repeat signs. The bottom staff is in bass clef and contains a series of eighth-note patterns. A dynamic marking *f sempre* is present at the start of measure 31.

Fifth system of musical notation, measures 41-50. The top staff is in bass clef with a key signature of two flats. It contains a series of eighth-note patterns with repeat signs. The bottom staff is in bass clef and contains a series of eighth-note patterns.