

brian current composer

For the Time Being (1999)

Duration: about 12 minutes

Instrumentation: 1121/1110/perc(1), timp ,piano Strings.

Previous performances: the Esprit Orchestra, the Nouvel Ensmble Moderne, the Canadian Chamber Players, the CBC Radio Orchestra, the Warsaw National Philharmonic, the Daegu Contemporary Ensemble (Korea).

Program notes: *For the Time Being* was composed for the Nouvel Ensemble Moderne during the fall of 1999. At the time I was interested in creating a piece that was very textural and goal-oriented, music that was always going somewhere. There are three sections of roughly equal lengths. The first slows down, the second speeds up and the third remains steady. At the end of each of these, there is a climactic area where a wash of ensemble-wide gestures lurch and drift in and out of major chords. The major triads are not there so much as functional harmony (although this inevitably occurs) but rather as familiar or comforting sonorities, causing the ear to relax slightly as if finding an old friend amidst a sea of changing textures and clusters. *For the Time Being* seemed an appropriate title as it speaks of time and being and the present moment.

Press quotes:

"Scored for a stripped-down orchestra, the young Canadian's wild and witty work stretches and curves ideas through time in a series of portamento gestures. One noted the clarity of Current's ideas, as well as his playfully radical edge."

-Nicholas Reyland, *Tempo* (Cambridge UK)

"Current's work is smart, well-crafted and virtuosic, balancing what's expected with what surprises in a way that flatters a listener's intelligence. Furthermore, his driving changes set up a momentum as inevitable, as comprehensible, but also as irresistible as did, in another age, a circle of fifths progression, while belonging very much to today's vocabulary."

- Elissa Poole, *Words and Music Magazine*