

Kurt Rohde



Altromondo (2013/2014)

Length: approx. 15 minutes

World premiere by ZOFO: 6/25/2015, Center for New Music, San Francisco, California

AUDIO SAMPLE (coming soon)

Notes from the composer about *Altromondo*:

"The piano of today is a nearly perfect instrument. Thanks to hundreds of years of technological advances, the modern keyboard is resilient, producing a beautifully resonant, uniform sound. My work for ZOFO, *Altromondo* (other world or another world), is a piece that works with this ideal instrument in addition to a number of other sounds that the piano can make but does not commonly get the opportunity to produce on purpose. Through a series of ten short movements, the piece tinkers with the sounds of "another world," where music operates as debris, coalescing, floating by, snagging on one another, assembling, gathering, dispersing, and eventually receding. The piece includes melodicas, harmonicas, assorted percussion and preparations inside the piano."

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Violist and composer Kurt Rohde is a recipient of the Rome Prize, the Berlin Prize, a Guggenheim Fellowship, and is the winner of the 2012 Lydian String Quartet Commission Prize. He has received commission awards from New Music USA – Commissioning Music/USA, the NEA, and the Barlow, Fromm,

Hanson, and Koussevitzky Foundations. Mr. Rohde recently completed new works for ZOFO duet, the Lydian String Quartet, eighth blackbird, the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, the Scharoun Ensemble, pianist Genevieve Lee, and the Left Coast Chamber Ensemble. Kurt is currently working on a few opera projects: one with writer Dana Spiotta and artist David Humphrey, another with poet Paul Mann and the Eclipse Quartet, and an adaptation of José Saramago's novel "Death With Interruptions" for soprano Nikki Einfeld and the Left Coast Chamber Ensemble. Mr. Rohde is also collaborating on an ongoing installation project with artist and filmmaker Shelley Jordon. His 2012 CD, *ONE – chamber music of Kurt Rohde*, was released by Innova Recordings, and his 2005 CD, *Oculus – music for strings* with the New Century Chamber Orchestra, was released on the Mondovibe label. Kurt will be in residence at Copland House in the Summer 2014 where he will work on new works for cellist Michelle Kesler (a cello concerto commissioned by the Barlow Endowment for Music Composition), and a new work for pianist Genevieve Lee (a new work for speaker, toy piano and harpsichord commissioned by the Fromm Foundation).

A Professor of Music Composition and Theory at the University of California at Davis Department of Music, where he is co-director of the Empyrean Ensemble, Kurt is a violist with the Left Coast Chamber Ensemble, and was a member of The New Century Chamber Orchestra between 1994-2014. Mr. Rohde was a Fellow at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study in 2012–13. Mr. Rohde is a graduate of the Peabody Institute at Johns Hopkins University, the Curtis Institute of Music and SUNY Stony Brook, and has attended the Montalvo, Yaddo, MacDowell, and the Djerassi Resident Artists Program. Kurt Rohde lives in San Francisco with his partner Timothy Allen and their labradoodle Ripley.

Composer's website: www.kurtrohde.com