

Stefan Cwik



Acrobats (2012)

Etude-Variations for piano-four-hands

- I. Introduction and Theme
- II. Shimmers
- III. Bell Tones
- IV. Cascades-Nocturne
- V. Figurations
- VI. Culmination-Dance & Double

Length: approx. 16 minutes

World Premiere by ZOFO: 1/25/2013, Old First Concerts, San Francisco, California

AUDIO SAMPLE (coming soon)

Notes from the composer about *Acrobats*:

“As the subtitle indicates *Acrobats* is a variation piece, but not only. Following the *Introduction and Theme*, each variation is also an etude that explores separate techniques that only piano-four-hands can accomplish. Through all of these etudes the main theme from the opening is injected into the music in various ways. The purpose of the variations is not only to expose the ‘effects’ of the etude-techniques but also to create a sort of psychological probing of the theme. Using the natural effects of each etude, there is a construction and destruction of emotion, therefore also creating emotional impact throughout the variations. *Acrobats* culminates emotionally as well as technically in the last dance.

Acrobats was commissioned by and is warmly dedicated to Keisuke Nakagoshi and Eva-Maria Zimmerman, two pianists who together form the ZOFO duet.”

Reviews

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BACHTRACK

SAN FRANCISCO EXAMINER

For a copy of the score please email Stefan Cwik: Stcwik@gmail.com

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Stefan is dedicated to the collaborative process of composition. He worked with Bassoonist Paula Brusky in premiering his piece *Eight Miniatures for Chamber Ensemble (Homage a Stravinsky)*, one of the winning pieces of the 2010 BCMCC (Bassoon Chamber Music Composition Competition). His *Eight Miniatures* was premiered at the 2011 International Double Reed Society Conference (IDRS) and is now published by TrevCo Publishing with a recording under the MSR classics label. He was also commissioned by the *ZOFO* duet of San Francisco resulting in his piece *Acrobats* for four-hand piano that will be recorded and released under the Sono Luminus label. Stefan won the 2013 BMI Student composer award for *Acrobats*.

Stefan had the privilege of collaborating with Symphony Parnassus and Stephen Paulson, Music Director of Symphony Parnassus and principal Bassoonist for the San Francisco Symphony. Stefan's orchestral work *Concert Dances for Orchestra* was premiered by Symphony Parnassus at Herbst Theatre in San Francisco under the direction of Stephen Paulson. Symphony Parnassus then premiered Stefan's *Concerto For Piano and Orchestra* with pianist Scott Foglesong as the soloist.

While attending Juilliard, Stefan was chosen as a winner of the Juilliard Orchestral Composition Competition for two consecutive years. His orchestral work *Terpsichore* was premiered and recorded by the Juilliard Orchestra and conducted by Jeffrey Milarsky at Juilliard's Peter Jay Sharp Theatre. *Terpsichore* was given Honorable Mention in the 2012 Minnesota Orchestra Composer's Institute. *The Illusionist*, his second piece to win the competition was given honorable mention in the 2013 ASCAP Morton Gould Young Composer awards.

Currently, Stefan is a professor of Music Theory and Musicianship at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. Stefan is a member of ASCAP (American Society of Composer, Authors, and Publishers). Representative examples of his music can be found on his website, www.stefancwik.com, or can be requested by contacting him via email, Stcwik@gmail.com.