

"Do you not remember the Javanese music, able to express every shade of meaning, even the unnameable, and which makes our tonic and dominant seem no more than empty phantoms for the use of naughty children?"

-Claude Debussy, letter to Pierre Louys, 1895

Dreams of a Dominant Culture

by Evan Ziporyn

commissioned by Boston Musica Viva, Richard Pittman, director

©1997, Airplane Ears Music (ASCAP)

Dreams of a Dominant Culture by Evan Ziporyn

Instrumentation:

Flute

B-flat clarinet

Marimba/Xylophone/Tamtam

Electric Piano (or synthesizer/sampler with electric piano setting)

Violin

'Cello

Duration: @18 minutes

Performance Instructions

Dreams of a Dominant Culture takes its inspiration from the *gadhon* chamber tradition of central Javanese court gamelan, in which various types of intricate and virtuosic heterophony are performed in an unobtrusive and non-soloistic manner. An audience member – even or perhaps particularly an outsider to the culture - can feel like the fortunate witness to a highly refined communal meditation, rather than the recipient of a directed communiqué from a group of performers.

Dreams of a Dominant Culture should be performed in this spirit. Its affect should never feel forced on the listener, but rather should flow from an introverted, private place that one hopes will be found engaging and interesting. Despite the difficulty of the parts (for which I deeply apologize!), the melodies should sound effortless, tossed-off, and lyrical. Parts should be

Dreams of a Dominant Culture

Transposed Score

Evan Ziporyn

$\text{♩} = 60$

Flute

Clarinet in B \flat

Marimba

Electric Piano

Violin

Violoncello

2

Musical score for measures 2-8. The system includes a Violin (Vln) staff and a Violoncello (Vc) staff. The Vln staff features a complex melodic line with various ornaments and fingerings (5, 3, 5, 5, 3, 6). The Vc staff is mostly silent, with some notes appearing in the final measure.

Musical score for measures 9-11. The Vln staff continues with melodic patterns, including triplets and quintuplets. The Vc staff remains mostly silent.

Musical score for measures 12-14. The Vln staff has a melodic line with triplets and sextuplets. The Vc staff is active, playing a rhythmic accompaniment with triplets and quintuplets. A *pp* (pianissimo) dynamic marking is present.

Musical score for measures 15-18. The Vln staff features melodic lines with triplets and sextuplets. The Vc staff continues with a complex accompaniment, including quintuplets and triplets.

317

Fl

Musical staff for Flute (Fl) in G major, 4/4 time. The staff contains a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes, featuring triplets and a quintuplet. The music concludes with a whole note rest.

Cl

Musical staff for Clarinet (Cl) in G major, 4/4 time. The staff contains a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes, featuring triplets and a quintuplet. The music concludes with a whole note rest.

Xyl.

Musical staff for Xylophone (Xyl.) in G major, 4/4 time. The staff contains a rhythmic accompaniment with sixteenth and thirty-second notes, featuring a sextuplet, triplets, and quintuplets. The music concludes with a whole note rest.

EPno

Musical staff for Electric Piano (EPno) in G major, 4/4 time. The staff contains a harmonic accompaniment with chords and moving bass lines. The music concludes with a whole note rest.

Vln

Musical staff for Violin (Vln) in G major, 4/4 time. The staff contains a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes, featuring slurs and ties. The music concludes with a whole note rest.

Vc

Musical staff for Violoncello (Vc) in G major, 4/4 time. The staff contains a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes, featuring slurs and ties. The music concludes with a whole note rest.