

## **Another Face (1987)**

*Another Face* was written in 1987 for the violinist Janos Negyesy and was commissioned by the National Endowment for the Arts. The work is the second piece composed in the "Crossfire" series of four works, some with electronics and optional video wall projection.

*Another Face* is a musical 'response' to the extraordinary novel by the great Japanese writer Kobo Abe, "The Face of Another". Abe has created a set of circumstances in his novel that confront us with profound questions concerning identity; these prompted a composition which proposes small musical modules juxtaposed in coded sequences as the small building blocks contained within extended lines. Each of the small modules consists of a pair—two pitches, and two distinct rhythmic values, which are repeated locally (for memory's sake), and transformed formally through four passes through the sequence.

And yet...the entire focus of the work is the emergence during the unfolding of the piece of an unnamed 'third force', a certain lyrical something that is contained within the somewhat more fiercely deterministic materials. The transformed reconciling materials appear very prominently at the end of the work.

The work is a fiendishly difficult virtuoso piece and without the work, spirit and dedication of such virtuosos as Janos Negyesy, Karen Bentley, and Movses Pogossian, it would not have been possible to compose it. Thus, it is dedicated to them with all admiration and gratitude.

- David Felder