

Unique forms of continuity in space (2017)

For 2 pianos and percussion

Commissioned by the festival "Look + Listen"

The story of this title is a personal one. When getting to know someone who I fell deeply in love with – my husband to be, I was gradually learning about his taste in art and life. He mentioned that his favorite sculpture was "Unique Forms of Continuity in Space" by the Italian futurist Umberto Boccioni. I was at once astonished by this artwork with its rather unconventional title and thought of it as a perfect metaphor for defining the very essence of music as such. The sculpture itself embodied dynamism and perpetual motion, which became a vernacular of this piece.

The idea of perpetual motion is reflective of our mindset in this technological era and is particularly dominant in urban dwellers of large cities such as New York. In the piece this concept is manifesting through a complex matrix of rhythmic patterns and pulses that are layered and rapidly shifting in both a synchronous and an asynchronous manner. Rhythmic ingenuity and the drive of percussion instruments is balanced with a rich textural harmonic world inherent to keyboards, hence merging the most ancient parameter of musical expression – rhythm with a multi-dimensional universe of sound and harmony that covers almost the entire range of human audibility. The scope of expression extends from pulsating dense harmonic textures with almost no perceptible rhythm to clearly defined rhythmic patterns and pulses with sparser and more economical choices of harmonic language.

Duration 17 minutes

"Unique forms of continuity in space" was premiered on May 19th, 2017 at the "Look+Listen" festival, BRIC House, Brooklyn. Performed by the "Yarn/Wire".