

Lisa Bielawa

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Note

Premiere: November 11, 2003, Merkin Hall. Commissioned by Merkin Hall for Lucy Moses School.
Duration: 3'
Instrumentation: piano solo

Midtown Passacaglia for solo piano was written in 2003, commissioned for the 50th Anniversary of Merkin Concert Hall in New York City, which houses the Lucy Moses Music School. Merkin commissioned composers to write celebratory new works expressly for the young musicians of the school. I liked the idea of the passacaglia form - a melody, usually in 3/4 time, that repeats throughout the piece while things change around it - because it is fun for the player and the listener to follow the repeating melody in its different octaves and different harmonic and melodic roles. I imagined a Melody traipsing around Manhattan, riding the subway, walking up Broadway...

– Lisa Bielawa

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