

Tempelhof Etude

Lisa Bielawa

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Note

Premiere: June 20, 2011, Naumberg Band Shell, Central Park, NY. Commissioned by Susan Bloom and Eddie Jacobsen for The Knights Chamber Orchestra.

Duration: 13'

Instrumentation: 2222; 2210; 1 perc; strings

Tempelhof Etude is the first musical chapter of a project that will culminate in *Tempelhof Broadcast*, a 60-minute piece for 600+ musicians on the tarmac of the former Tempelhof Airport in Berlin. This site, famous for its role in the Berlin Airlift in 1948-49, is currently open to the public, unaltered, but in 2013 it will begin to evolve into a new role in the life of the city. On several days in May, we will turn the runways into a vast musical canvas, as professional, amateur and student musicians execute a spatialized symphony. The massive event will begin in the center of the field and disperse outwards. One of the big challenges for me is to find ways to make a dynamic piece without players needing to have written parts. In this Etude, I begin to explore some of the ways that musical material can unfold according to simply-defined 'tasks' – ways to make musical experiences unfold organically, according to mnemonics, rules and games. *Tempelhof Etude* was commissioned for the Knights by Susan Bloom and Eddie Jacobsen.

– Lisa Bielawa

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