Cygnus

On August 28, 2006 at 10:23 AM, Cygnus wrote:

I've written and produced quite a number of pop tunes, including several new ones this summer in the midst of all my... uh... serious (!!!) music composing. Whether I've had success with any of them is questionable: a few have been used in low budget movies over the years, but I haven't yet tried to get anything on the radio or into a wider market (this may change shortly with the new batch; I'm getting bold in my old age).

This brings up another question:

Do you actually want that kind of success? I hear the term 'selling out' all the time, I think it's hogwash. McCartney once said something about this to the extent of 'Hey John, let's write another swimming pool' ☺

I would love to write the big K-Fed single, be musical director for Paris Hilton, be Larry Fortensky's librettist or Ashlee Simpson's air-violinist ☺ I don't think I can, much to my amusement. I sit down on the keyboard and that stuff just doesn't come out of me. Can a Ned Rorem or Corigliano write a Paul Simon song? Is it all technique?

BTW, I will send you a message on myspace to hear my geek arrangements.

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Alex Shapiro

On August 22, 2006 at 04:36 AM, Alex Shapiro wrote:

I enjoyed your Myspace clips! Your CD may very well do for these composers what Emerson, Lake and Palmer did for Mussorgsky, which would be fabulous. New approaches to get new audiences excited. Congrats! Your playing on the Sulto is especially great.

Of course I'd love to see your pop songs reach the top of the charts and make me huge piles of money. How else can I assist charities, set up foundations, and do what I can to improve the quality of other people's lives? That's a better incentive than a swimming pool... 😹

http://www.alexshapiro.org

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thecap

On August 22, 2006 at 12:10 AM, thecap wrote:

Hi, Miss Shapiro.If anything on this post looks weird, I'm new to this part of the site. You seem to write for a variety of instruments-how about percussion? Oh-you are knock-dead gorgeous.

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Alex Shapiro

On August 22, 2006 at 01:30 AM, Alex Shapiro wrote:

Aren't you kind? Well, I haven't killed anyone yet, so no need for worry 😹

One of my favorite pieces in my catalog is for piano and two percussionists, titled "At the Abyss":

http://www.alexshapiro.org/AttheAbysseq1.html

One player is on marimba and vibes and the other is on a rash of metal percussion-- crotales, gongs, tam tam, suspended cymbals, cowbells... one of the most fun things was having the opening main melody of the second movement played on bowed crotales. And the mallets are in this lead throughout the jazz-oriented third movement. You can hear clips on the web link.

I love percussion and am always looking for ways to use more of it. Last month a comedic piece that I recorded which was originally for violin and harpsichord, just begged for percussion from, in this case, all parts of the world. So I spent a couple of days in the studio with a great player here in L.A. and we laid down 21 tracks of percussion that I've mixed with the original duet, and it sounds very cool! If it were done live with the violin/harpsichord duo, it could be performed with two players very easily. I'm excited to get it out there. I'd post a clip, but I haven't done the final mix yet.

http://www.alexshapiro.org

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