Cort Lippe

Program Notes

String Trio Music (for viola, cello, and double-bass) (1989) was premiered at the International Computer Music Conference 1990 in Glasgow. This work draws on two extremely different aspects of my musical experience: improvisational music and music involving computers. These two musical domains, representing intuition and rationale—opposites yet complements—hold a great deal of interest for me.

About half of the composing process involved a computer, using programs written by me and employing stochastic procedures. One problem which interests me is the modeling of improvisational "behavior" based on stochastic processes. The main compositional algorithm used is based on elaborations of *Brownian motion.* Other algorithms used include: sorting and searching procedures, tendency masks, interpolation routines, and data reduction schemes. Virtually all musical parameters were effected via computation.

The other half of the composing process was intuitive: thus the work can be considered both as a confrontation, and as an attempt at synthesizing two compositional methods. Although there is no improvisation in the piece, the interaction among the musicians includes reactive and reflexive gestures associated with improvisational music - in which players are required to listen closely to one another and react rapidly within the musical discourse. This piece explores the interactions among three soloists, in which no part plays a secondary role.

String Trio Music won first prize in the *1995 El Callejon del Ruido Algorithmic Music Composition Competition* of Guanajuato, Mexico, jury chair: Brian Ferneyhough. Written *in memorium* for the filmmaker John Cassevettes (1929-1989). Duration: 15 minutes.