

they dwarfed the other themes. I hadn't performed the original pieces yet and I still liked them, so I cannibalized them. What is left here are 11 sections loosely related to, or containing and combining the shorter themes including an overview style intro and a conclusion that includes a melody I wrote as an undergraduate "Thad" which is a portrait of a good friend. Thanks for listening.

I would like to extend my deepest thanks and gratitude to all the performers who lent their time and their talent for no more than pizza and beer. Your personalities and musicianship has been thoroughly enjoyed. I would also like to thank Allen Shawn for his guidance in composition. Allen has an uncommon talent for meeting you at your vision, and a way of pushing you and your work forward, never obtrusively. Deep thanks to Jill for improving my life in all ways, and putting up with me as I got less and less sleep. And special thanks to Professor Graves who is a constant source of inspiration both as a musician and as a person.

# Cartoon Music

A Concert of Music Composed by Matt Fagen  
May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2004  
Bennington College

## 6 LITTLE PIANO PIECES

Performed by Allen Shawn

## QUARTET FOR SAXOPHONES

Performed by:

Bruce Williamson -Soprano Saxophone  
William Ryan Nestor -Alto Saxophone  
Jacob Perkins -Tenor Saxophone  
Justin Vitello -Baritone Saxophone

## CARTOON MUSIC

- I Overture
- (II Bubblegum Fury)
- III Antagonistic
- IV Breakfast Serial
- V Black Out at Stress Camp
- VI Tra lala lalalala
- VII Homophonia
- VIII A Tidy Home (Wheel of Fecundity)
- IX Bingo Babongo
- X Lucky 13
- XI Thad

Performed by:

Tim Whitehead - Piano  
Alex Kalfayan - Bass  
Jeff Lindberg - Percussion  
P.J. Rodota - Percussion  
Joe Westerlund - Vibraphone  
Cori Tolda - Viola  
Bruce Williamson - Clarinet and Flute  
Jacob Perkins - Tenor Saxophone  
Eric Taxier - Alto Saxophone  
Westbrook Johnson - Trombone  
Matt Souther -trumpet

## SIX LITTLE PIANO PIECES

This is a series of six short piano pieces I wrote this past fall under the guidance of Allen Shawn. They are inspired largely by Schoenberg's Op. 19, which Allen had given to the grad seminar class to look at. I was taken by Schoenberg's bluntness and his willingness to abandon common forms to paint short stills.

## QUARTET FOR SAXOPHONES

The majority of this piece was written last summer. I chose saxophones because they are capable of being beautiful... and disgusting. My highschool jazz band instructor, Mr. Sweeney, had a terrible joke he told way too often: "What's the difference between a saxophone and a chainsaw? You can tune a chainsaw." Being a sax player myself I felt I knew roughly what I could ask for. I wanted to create a rhythmic piece full of interesting, beautiful and disgusting clusters... as I've noticed that an audience of contemporary music listeners (myself included) feels elevated if given the opportunity to withstand extended discomfort. Among the ideas in this piece is one of my favorites - a long rhythmic string of the cluster b flat, b, c, and c#, in which the players switch between these tones. Each of these tones are being represented at all times in this section so the timbre of the cluster is continually shifting. This seems to sufficiently satisfy my masochism.

## CARTOON MUSIC

This piece started as a series of short imaginary cartoon theme songs inspired by late night cartoon watching. I was inspired by a group of cartoon themes composed by Carl Staling. Each was in a simple 16 bar A B A form, and each was perfect. I wanted to try. So I wrote 8 or 9 short form cartoon themes all for flute, alto, tenor, trumpet, and trombone. I imagined I would continue in this vein for a while, but by the time I got around to composing the 10<sup>th</sup>, Allen introduced me to some of the music of Mauricio Kagel and Wolfgang Rihm (which messed my head all up...thanks Allen!). The forms then began to expand and become asymmetrical. Kagel inspired me to experiment more with timbre and instrumentation, and Rihm inspired me to experiment with a fluidity of polyphony approaching cacophony. So I let the new pieces go until