I, Kazuaki Shiota, hereby submit this work as part of the requirements for the degree of: Master of Music in: Composition

It is entitled: The Signals from the Starlight

This work and its defense approved by:

Chair: Mara Helmuth Joel Hoffman Michael Fiday
The Signals from the Starlight

for violin, percussion, and computer

Duration: 10’

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College-Conservatory of Music

Music Composition

Chair: Mara Helmuth
Abstract

The focal point of the piece is the alteration of communications. Through the communication of the two people, their relationship may change as times goes by: they sometimes become friendly or estranged depending on the environment. I imagined the two people from the stars are sending light signals between each other through the space. The vibraphone and violin are the representative signals. Since the two stars are distant, the time lag of the light signals influences their relationship severely. I can also apply this concept to our everyday life. Although the two people are talking to each other face-to-face, their invisible feelings (signals) may change their relationship. The timpani is used for dramatic climaxes when the violinist becomes estranged from the percussionist. {TranSpell}, the instrument developed by myself, spectrally and ethereally accompanies the two instruments.
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Disposition
General Notation

Quarter tones

1/4 tone higher than the indicated pitch.

1/4 tone lower than the indicated pitch.
Delay

Play the notes right after the violinist plays instead of playing simultaneously.

Synchronize

Play with the violin part simultaneously as usual. This *synchronize* is followed by the *delay*.
Gradually faster

Gradually slower

Irregular Tremolo

Rapidly alternate between fast and slow tremolo.
Notes for the individual parts

Violin

Play like the *theremin*, invented by Léon Theremin in 1919, entirely except for section E (mm. 90-114): maintain *molto vibrato* through all glissandi.

*Molto vibrato alla theremin*
Percussion

Play both the vibraphone and timpani, however, you may split into two parts. The mallets are not specified.

Vibraphone

Manual control of reel

Do not use the motor, instead manually alter the speed of the reel.

slow-fast
Gradually accelerate the speed

fast-slow
Gradually slow down the speed

Timpani (32”)

Glissando

Gradually alter the pitch between two notes.
Computer

{TranSpell} is a software-based instrument that creates various types of spectra which slightly alters timbre according to the amplitude and location. Output the computer in stereo from a mixing console. In order to download {TranSpell} and its directions, email the composer at fl_kazu@hotmail.com.

Cues

Cues are the numbers shown above. You can move onto the next cue by pressing the space key. When you initiate the next cue change, be aware of dramatic dynamic alterations. One hand should be used to control the volume faders on the mixing console in order to adjust quickly.

Panning

You may freely alter the panning rate at any time to articulate the sound.