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Strange Attractors. [Original composition]

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Rice University, 1990
Rice University

Strange Attractors

by

David Colson

A Dissertation Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree Doctor of Musical Arts

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April, 1990
ABSTRACT

STRANGE ATTRACTORS

by

DAVID COLSON

Strange Attractors is an orchestral composition in five parts in which the musical ideas of the first three sections become progressively unique to the basic idea of the opening introduction. The final two groups of musics gravitate back towards the original musical statements and/or quote previous ideas. Continuity of each of the sections is generated by the alternation of pitch and rhythmic stability/instability. The melodic and harmonic materials are based on three pitches and their permutations. Each of the 32 instrumental parts of the orchestra are treated equally; one instrument or group of instruments does not dominate the ensemble. While composing Strange Attractors, I wanted to make a piece of music that was immediately listener-friendly and enjoyable for the musicians to perform.

Strange Attractors is scored for the following instrumentation: 3 flutes (picc.), 2 oboes, English horn, 2 clarinets (in A), bass clarinet (in Bb), 2 bassoons, contrabassoon, 4 horns (in F), 3 trumpets (in C), 3 trombones, tuba, harp, timpani, 2 percussion, violin I, violin II, viola, cello, and double bass. The score is in C. The duration of the work is 13 minutes.