

MUSIC ACCORD

LOWELL LIEBERMANN *String Quartet No. 5 (2014)*

Program Notes

The 5th String Quartet Op.126 was commissioned by Music Accord for the Emerson Quartet, to whom the work is dedicated. It is such an honor (and not an unimposing one!) to write for an ensemble that has been, through their many recordings, such an iconic presence in my own musical development.

This Quartet, like much of my instrumental music, has no extra-musical program - it is as absolute and abstract as music can be - yet, at the same time, I have no doubt that my mindset while composing the piece and its resultant overriding elegiac tone was at least partly influenced by any number of depressing/terrifying events of the kind with which we are all bombarded daily, in what seems more and more like a world gone mad.

The work's mysterious opening, marked "Limpido" ("still") introduces a number of motives which are heard and developed throughout the quartet. Structurally, the Quartet is in one arc-like symmetrical movement consisting of two mostly slow sections flanking a fast section whose structure is, in and of itself, symmetrical. If we think of that central fast section as being akin to a scherzo and trio, then the reprise of the scherzo section is actually an intervallic inversion of its first statement, while the trio section divides at its midpoint, the second half being a mirror image of the first half.

- Lowell Liebermann

String Quartet No. 5

Composer: Lowell Liebermann

Instrumentation: string quartet

Premiering Artists: The Emerson String Quartet: Eugene Drucker (Violin); Philip Setzer (Violin); Lawrence Dutton (Viola); Paul Watkins (Cello)

Duration: 21"

Publisher Contact

Lowell Liebermann's music is published by Theodore Presser.

<http://www.presser.com/Composers/info.cfm?Name=LOWELLLIEBERMANN>

Artist Contact

The Emerson String Quartet is managed by IMG Artists.

http://imgartists.com/artist/emerson_string_quartet



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About Music Accord

Comprised of top classical music presenting organizations throughout the United States, Music Accord is a consortium that commission new works in the chamber music, instrumental recital and song genres. The Consortium's goal is to create a significant number of new works and to ensure presentation of these works in venues throughout this country and, if the occasion arises, internationally. Music Accord awards commissions principally to performers who are US citizens or reside in the US and assists these performers in selecting composers who are United States citizens or who reside in the United States.

