

MUSIC ACCORD

SAMUEL CARL ADAMS *Impromptus* (2016)

Program Notes

Impromptus (2015-2016)

Music by Samuel Adams

Commissioned by Music Accord Inc. for Emanuel Ax

Scored for solo piano

I) 10.17.2017

II) after Schubert

III) After My Very Young Life

I created these three pieces with the intention that they would be performed as links between each of the Four Impromptus D 935 by Franz Schubert. I imagine they could also be performed on their own—in any order or perhaps individually—but for now they exist as works whose forms and harmonic structures serve a larger seven-movement arch.

The process of writing the pieces was a terrific excuse to reacquaint myself with Schubert's crystalline works (I used to play the Impromptus as a young pianist) and to re-discover their clarity, patience, and resonance.

The music I created aims to assume a similar posture. Each impromptu is carefully constructed but rooted in a simple impulse: the first, a kind of graphed organism made from the DNA of Impromptus nos. 3 and 4 D 899; the second, a symmetrical ABA form with material lifted from American folk music and the Sonata in B-flat major D 960; the third, an introduction and thirty-one repetitions of an unsourced cadence.

I began sketching these works in the fall of 2015 and completed nos. II and III the following winter. I completed no. I in July, 2016. Sincerest thanks to Emanuel Ax for this wonderful opportunity. - Samuel Carl Adams

Impromptus

Composer: Samuel Carl Adams

Instrumentation: solo piano

Premiering Artists: Emanuel Ax, piano

Duration:

Publisher Contact

<http://www.samuelcarladsams.com/>

Artist Contact

<http://www.opus3artists.com/artists/emanuel-ax>



Samuel Carl Adams

Emanuel Ax

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 Consortiums 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.



Tanglewood



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