

MUSIC ACCORD

BRYCE DESSNER

Circles (2021)

**Program
Notes**

I was fortunate to meet the wonderful bandoneón/accordion player Julien Labro a few years ago while I was composing the music for the Fernando Mereilles film, *The Two Popes*. I wrote a lot of music for Julien to play and was completely blown away in the studio by his exceptional musicianship and virtuosity. He seems to literally be able to do anything. So when the chance to compose for him and the equally wonderful Takács Quartet came, I was very happy to write a new piece.

Circles is my composition for their quintet and is a simple idea that I wrote during the many months of lockdown in France due to the global COVID-19 pandemic. This piece was an expression of the creative process slowly starting to turn again, each individual voice searching for a line and searching for one another and eventually falling into a pattern or dance together, which weaves in and out of this collective rhythm and individualist polyphony. This theme of the individual versus the collective voice is something I have been exploring a lot in my work, especially when writing for a soloist. What does it mean to write for the individual, is it not more important than what we have to say as a group — the voice of many as opposed to the voice

of one? And in this case, I have left quite a lot of information out of the score, to encourage the players of the quartet and Julien to find their own expressions and dynamics, to bring their own voice to these skeletal notes.

Program note by Bryce Dessner.

Circles

Composer: Bryce Dessner

Instrumentation: string quartet mand
bandoneon

Premiering Artists: Julien LaBro, bandoneon
The Takacs String Quartet: Edward
Dusinberre Violin / Harumi Rhodes Violin /
Richard O'Neill Viola / Andrés Fejér Cello

Duration: 6"

Publisher Contact

Wise Music Classical

<https://www.wisemusicclassical.com/composer/4132/Bryce-Dessner/>

Artist Contact

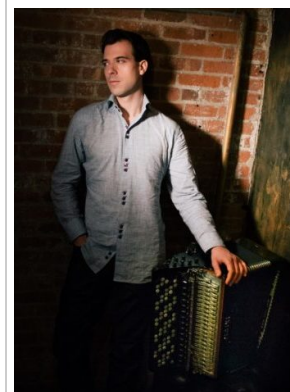
for Takacs String Quartet

<https://www.takacsquartet.com/contact>

for Julien LaBro

<https://julienlabro.com/contact-julien-labro/>

Bryce Dessner



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.

