

Welcome to Brad Meyer's DMA Lecture Recital

An Analysis of "Six Japanese Gardens" by Kaija Saariaho



Program Outline

- Brief Biography of Kaija Saariaho
- Background of *Six Japanese Gardens*
- Deciphering Complex Polyrythms
 - Fractured Polyrythms
- Visual Representation Analysis
- Analysis of *Six Japanese Gardens*
 - Movement I - "Tenju-an Garden of Nanzen-ji Temple"
 - Movement II - "Many Pleasures (Garden of the Kinkaku-ji)"
 - Movement III - "Dry Mountain Stream"
 - Movement IV - "Rock Garden of Ryoan-ji"
 - Movement V - "Moss Garden of the Saiho-ji"
 - Movement VI - "Stone Bridges"
 - Multi-movement Compositional Techniques
- Conclusion
- Performance of *Six Japanese Gardens*

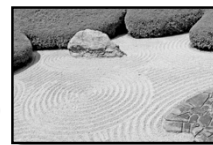
Kaija Saariaho

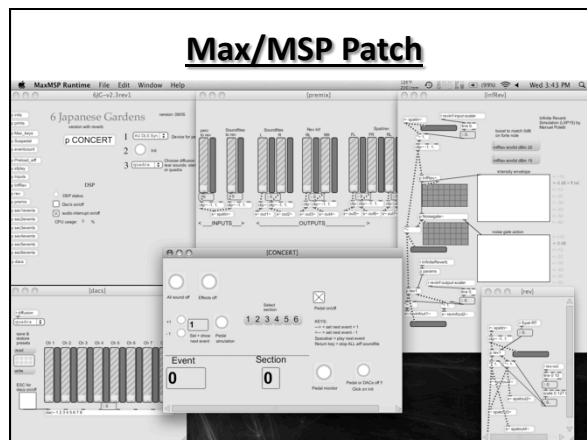
- ✧ Born – Finland, 1952
- ✧ Schooling: Helsinki Rudolf Steiner School
- ✧ Started studying violin, piano, and guitar privately
- ✧ Institute of Industrial Arts and Crafts (visual arts) and Helsinki Conservatory (piano and organ) concurrently
- ✧ 1976 – Saariaho decides she has to compose – enrolled at Sibelius Academy under Paavo Heininen
- ✧ Established Korvat auki! (Ears Open!) with fellow students
- ✧ Interest in electronics was due to the acoustics of performance areas
- ✧ Dealt with issues of both gender discrimination and musical discrimination
- ✧ 1980 - Darmstadt, Germany – spectral music (Gérard Grisey and Tristan Murail)
- ✧ Institute for Music/Acoustic Research and Coordination (IRCAM) in Paris
 - Spectral Harmony – examination of sound phenomenon
 - Music is for the ears, not eyes
- ✧ Beginning of international success (mid-1980's)
- ✧ Awarded numerous honors
- ✧ Over 100 pieces written



Six Japanese Gardens (1993/96)

- ✧ 1993 - Visit to Center for Computer Music and Music Technology in Tokyo
- ✧ Written in memory of Toru Takemitsu
- ✧ Premiered in 1995 by Shinita Ueno at the Kunitachi College of Music
- ✧ Sparked an interest in the Japanese aesthetic
 - Gardens of Kyoto
- ✧ Saariaho, "it is about the art of time, a garden becoming the art of time."
- ✧ Gathered recorded sounds from Japanese nature, traditional instruments, and other recordings like chanting of Buddhist monks 🎧
- ✧ Use of electronics – Max/MSP, reverb, infinite reverb, quadraphonic spatialization, and harmonizers
- ✧ Amplification/Reverb: for balance between acoustic and electronic elements
- ✧ Specific and non-specific instrumentation
- ✧ Six movements: each represents a physical location, but may not be directly related to the title of its movement





Deciphering Complex Polyrhythms

Easy Polyrhythms: Example - 2 over 3

✧ Finding the Greatest Common Factor (GCF):

- $\frac{2}{3} = 6$

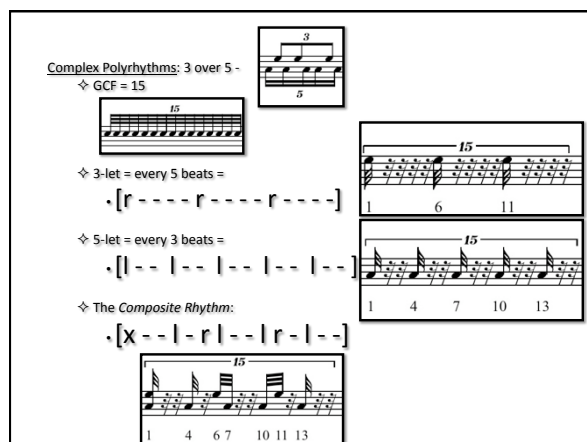
- visualization

✧ Then, find where the individual rhythms will be located:

- $6/2 = 3$ = every 3 beats is a eighth-note: [r - - r - -]

- $6/3 = 2$ = every 2 beats is a triplet: [1 - 1 - 1 -]

✧ Next, map the two rhythms on top of each other to create the *composite rhythm*:

$$\cdot [X - |r| -] =$$


Two different ways of thinking about the polyrhythms

Composite or Dominant/Subdominant

2 on top of 3

3 on top of 2

or

3 on top of 5

on

5 on top of 3

Fractured Polyrhythms

✧ Incomplete 5-let (missing 3rd) over complete 4-let:

• [X - - - | o - - | - # - | - - o | - - -]



• 5 over 4 -



• 4 over 5 -

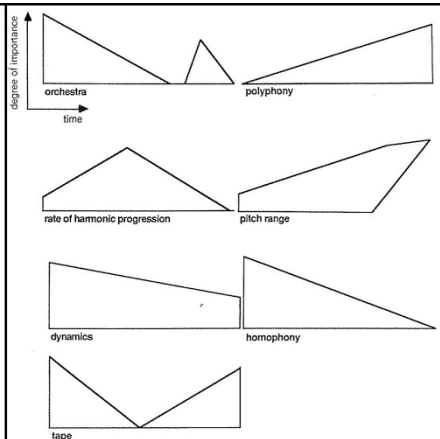


Visual Representation Analysis



The first sketch of the "global form" of *Verblendungen* for orchestra and tape.

Curves for the evolution of the compositional parameters of *Verblendungen*. For each curve, time is represented on the vertical axis.



Analysis of Six Japanese Gardens

- Movement I - "Tenju-an Garden of Nanzen-ji Temple"
- Movement II - "Many Pleasures (Garden of the Kinkaku-ji)"
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- Movement IV - "Rock Garden of Ryōan-ji"
- Movement V - "Moss Garden of the Saihō-ji"
- Movement VI - "Stone Bridges"

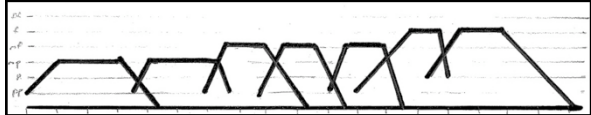
Mov't I - "Tenju-an Garden of Nanzen-ji Temple"

Tenju-an is a sub-temple of the Nanzen-ji Buddhist complex.

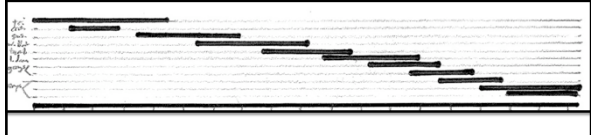


Founded in the late 14th century by Kokan Shiren in honor of Priest Fumon, the founder of Nanzen-ji.

Dynamics



Instrumental Pitch



Musical score for "1 Temples Garden of Nanzen-j Temple". The score is written for a large ensemble, including strings, woodwinds, brass, and percussion. The tempo is marked "Moderato" and the time signature is 4/4. The score is divided into measures, with some measures containing multiple notes and rests. The instrumentation includes Violins I, Violins II, Violas, Cellos, Double Basses, Flutes, Oboes, Clarinets, Bassoons, Horns, Trumpets, Trombones, and Percussion. The score is written in a standard musical notation with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The tempo is marked "Moderato" and the time signature is 4/4. The score is divided into measures, with some measures containing multiple notes and rests. The instrumentation includes Violins I, Violins II, Violas, Cellos, Double Basses, Flutes, Oboes, Clarinets, Bassoons, Horns, Trumpets, Trombones, and Percussion. The score is written in a standard musical notation with a key signature of one flat (B-flat).

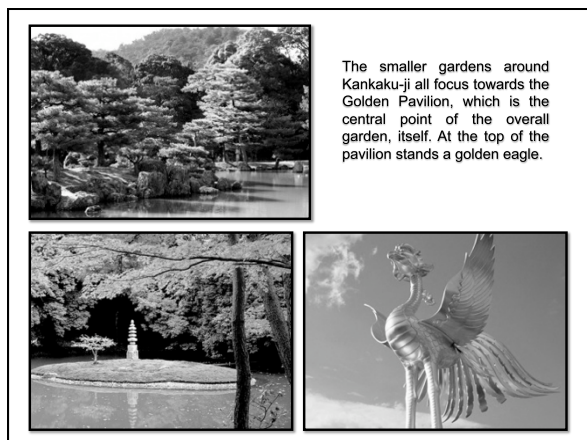
Mov't II - "Many Pleasures (Garden of the Kinkaku-ji)"



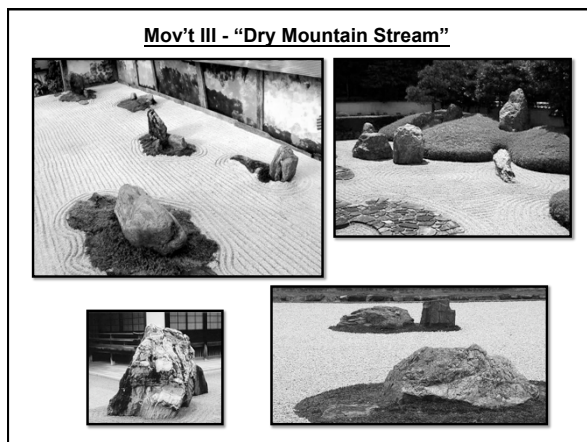
Kinkaku-ji temple's (a.k.a. Golden Pavilion) top two floors are completely covered in gold leaf. The temple has been rebuilt numerous times, last of which, was in 1950. Originally the temple was built to resemble the Seven Treasure Pond in scenes of the Buddhist Paradise.



The temple contains a replica of the imperial palace's Shishin-den Hall, complete with throne.



Voice Crossing



Illustrative Representation - Overall Structure

Movement from rounded, swelling gestures to sharp, angular gestures.

Mov't IV - "Rock Garden of Ryoan-ji"

The garden consists of 15 boulders in three groups of five on a bed of white gravel. The number 15 is considered to represent completeness in Buddhism.



There are numerous theories about what the garden represents, but a popular theory is due in part to the boulders being positioned so only 14 are viewable at one time. This maybe implies that completeness is not possible in the one's life.

Mov't V - "Moss Garden of the Saiho-ji"



The Saiho-ji garden consists of around 120 different kinds of mosses. The garden is one of the oldest of its kind, and was originally a dry garden, but after the temple and garden was consumed by both flood and fire, the moss grew over the remains and has created one of the most famous gardens in Kyoto.

Rhythmic Density
Rhythmic Acceleration/Diminution

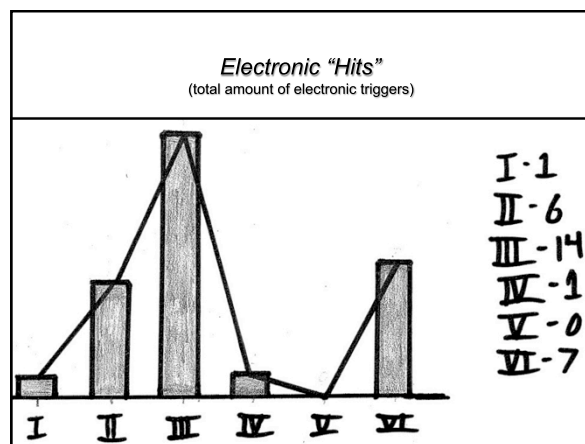
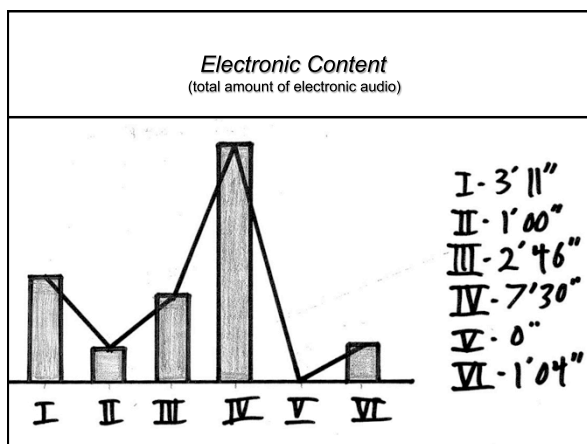
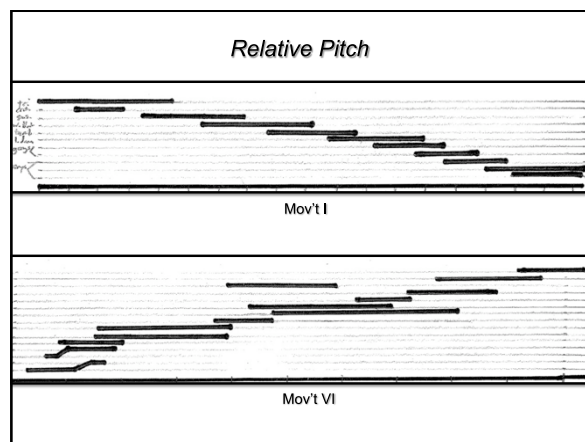
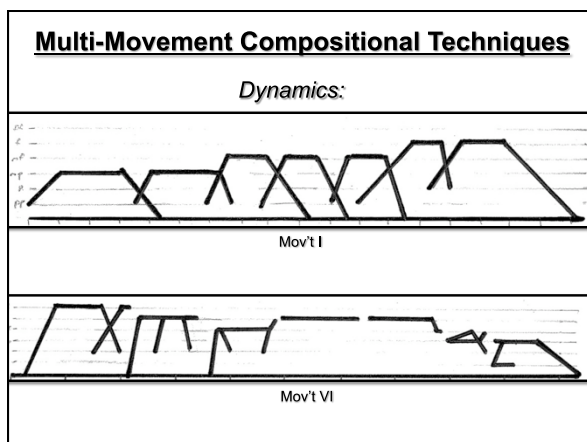
Mov't V - Rhythmic Study

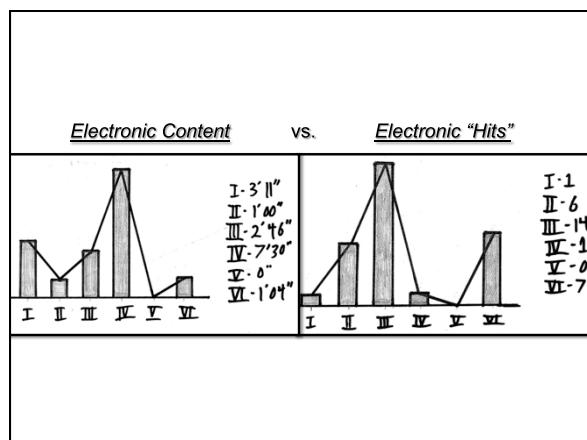
Mov't VI - "Stone Bridges"

Pictured is a bridge of stones traversing the koi pond at the Tenju-an Garden.

Dynamics

Instrumental Pitch





Conclusion

- Kaija Saariaho - internationally renowned composer
- *Six Japanese Gardens* - Kyoto, Japan
- Understanding Polyrhythms
- Appreciating Visual Representation Techniques
- Analysis of *Six Japanese Gardens*
 - Illustrative Analysis Technique
 - Graphic Analysis
 - Voice Transfer Analysis
 - Rhythmic Acceleration/Diminution Analysis

Thank You

- Becca Meyer
- Jim Campbell
- Chad Floyd
- Everyone in attendance

Performance of
Six Japanese Gardens
 by Kaija Saariaho