



February 23, 2004

SCI Conference Blog

Monday, February 02, 2004

Final Concert of SCI Region 6--2004

submitted by Jay C. Batzner

Since I need to leave immediately after this concert (the weather forecast for Kansas City is not good) this will be a real-time review. I want to congratulate Tim Crist and Arkansas State University for their spectacular job in programming, organizing, and performing all this wonderful music. Thanks to all who participated in this laborious event!

The first piece is *Drift* by Dorothy Hindman and is played by the ASU Sax Quartet. Mechanical punctuations initiate this work and the student ensemble is really digging in deep to the music. Long and smooth gestures arise from the grooves and give way to more punchy stuff (I haven't used "punchy" in a while and I was due). The harmonies change at unexpected intervals and slap-tonguing thickens the texture. Lots of great visceral energies here. Gradually more sustained lines emerge from held tones and the piece disintegrates quickly.

Next up is *Gín-á-Koa* by Chinchun Chi-sun Lee. It is performed by violinist Linda Hsu and pianist Stefanie C. Dickinson. The piece opens with smooth jazz chords and a folk-like violin tune. So far this has been a delightfully elegant piece that emphasizes simplicity and the melodic gift in Taiwanese folk melodies. Very comfortable and enjoyable. These traditional melodies are wonderfully crafted and manipulated throughout the three movements. The final movement has a lot of great Stravinsky and Bartok rhythmic punches. What fun!

Kirk O'Riordan's wife Holly was in a car accident on her way to the airport to perform Kirk's *Three Pieces for Solo Piano*. Holly is uninjured, thankfully, and their car is reported as driveable. I must applaud Tim Crist again because they have chosen to play a recording of Kirk's piece. I'm glad we get to hear it and I hope that I may see Holly perform it soon!