

CHAMBER MUSIC- PROGRAM NOTES

While in residence at the MacDowell Colony a fellow resident artist showed me a new ink sketch. The sketch depicted five distinct areas of fantastic abstract energy that seemed to fuse and interact with one another creating a swirling, furious, wildness. Instantly I knew this was visually the concept I had been attempting to touch musically. It didn't seem coincidental that I was writing for five virtuoso players of the highest order—the Da Capo Chamber Players. Immediately, I went to work and within a month had completed the work.

CHAMBER MUSIC is a single movement work that maintains a constant quick tempo throughout. While the notion of repetition is essential to the fabric and structure of the work, it is really about thematic statement, design and development.... a theme that keeps living, growing and maturing in each and every textural circumstance it encounters. The dazzling virtuosity of the Da Capo Chamber Players considerably influenced the nature of the work as it is a highly virtuosic, relentless and fiercely provocative attack from beginning to end...lasting nearly 10 minutes.

CHAMBER MUSIC, commissioned by Franklin and Marshall College, was completed February 15, 1987.

The fierce, stretto-like ending was reminiscent of a minimalist “Jupiter” symphony—here, finally, was a post-minimalism that showed some teeth.

Buffalo News-Richard Chon