Yield (Preludes and Fugues for Piano)



In creating Yield I set out with the intention to produce a set of Preludes and Fugues, improvising the themes harmonies. Over my career I have found improvising to be the most truthful way I create. Bringing my extensive experience methods of improvising and techniques and aural sensibilities of jazz training, I wanted to revisit one of my earliest influences from when learning classical piano, the German master, J.S. Bach and his masterwork for keyboard, The Well Tempered Clavier, consisting of 48 preludes and fugues in every major and minor key. Through studying these works, I Bach's cannot fail to see enduring influence on those who followed including many of my

inspirations, Chopin, Rachmaninoff and Shostakovich. My influences also extend to the piano works of Claude Debussy, John Cage, Bill Evans, Philip Glass, Steve Reich, Chris Abrahams and Hauschka.

All performances were recorded in one 6-hour session on a Steinway piano with a multitude of microphones and recording techniques. I enjoyed using an expanded piano timbre palette, including preparations, overdubs and extended resonances. A week later I spent 3 days mixing and editing through external audio hardware. I like the conflict I can bring to bear in blending the natural acoustics of piano playing and the manipulation of these soundwaves made possible in studio editing.

For this record, I was determined to construct fugues, based on the original translation from the Spanish, Fugare, meaning 'to chase'. In Bach and Shostakovich's fugues, voices chase each other across a two handed piece, often lulling the listener into a rich texture of harmonious melody where one could surrender to the depth of the polyphony. My experience in overdubbing and audio editing allowed me to plan to post-produce elements of these fugues, giving me more freedom to improvise.

Yield is part of a larger project of twenty-four preludes and fugues in every key.