

UPCOMING AT THE SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Wednesday, April 24 – Jupiter Quartet

7:00 pm - Capistrano Concert Hall

*Mozart's String Quartet No. 21 in D Major, K. 575*

*"Life in Wayang" by Su Lian Tan*

*Dvorak's String Quartet No. 14 in A-flat Major, Op. 105*

(\$30 general, \$25 senior, \$10 student)

Thursday, April 25 – Jazz Ensembles

7:00 pm - Capistrano Concert Hall

(\$15 general, \$10 senior, \$5 student)

Wednesday, May 1 - Concert Band

7:00 pm - Capistrano Concert Hall

*music by Robert Sheldon, Erik Morales, Brian Balmages,  
and Leonard Bernstein*

(15 general, \$10 senior, \$5 student)

Friday, May 3 – Vocal Jazz Ensembles

7:00 pm - Capistrano Concert Hall

(\$15 general, \$10 senior, \$5 student)

Saturday, May 4 – University Chorale and Choral Union

7:00 pm - Capistrano Concert Hall

(\$15 general, \$10 senior, \$5 student)

Music Under the Dome  
presents

***Point, Line, Curve, Plane***

By Stephen Blumberg

SUNDAY, 2:00 P.M.

APRIL 21, 2024

SAC STATE PLANETARIUM

Point, Line, Curve, Plane (1987/2009)  
for one to four quartets

Stephen Blumberg  
(b. 1962)

Quartet 1

Cathie Apple, flute  
Cindy Behmer, oboe  
Sandra McPherson, clarinet  
Noah Blevins, bass clarinet

Quartet 2

Steve Roach, trumpet  
Mike Nelson, horn  
Steve Perdicaris, trombone  
Julian Dixon, tuba

Quartet 3

Sam Weiser, violin  
George England, guitar  
Timothy Stanley, cello  
Thomas Derthick, bass

Quartet 4

Greg Johnson, soprano saxophone  
Keith Bohm, alto saxophone  
Chris Harris, glockenspiel  
Jordan Shippy, vibraphone

*Point, Line, Curve, Plane* is an algorithm for improvisation, a conceptual piece that is really more like a game than a traditionally composed work. I came up with the idea for it when I was 25 years old, and the first time it was performed it was done as a single woodwind quartet: flute, oboe, bass clarinet, and bassoon. 22 years later I decided it would really work best as a piece for four quartets, or from one to four quartets.

It defines a simple geometry of four musical gestures each of which is represented graphically. "Point" is a short staccato note. "Line" is a held sustained note. "Curve" is a melodic figure or phrase. "Plane" is a chord of two or more notes and can be produced by an instrument that can only play a single note at a time as a trill, tremolo, or multi-phonics. All of the specific pitches, durations, timbres, and dynamics are left up to each player to decide in the moment. Each member of each quartet responds to one other player in their quartet, reading from a single-page flow-chart – different for each quartet member – that presents four rules or response options listed in terms of an if-then situation. For instance, *if* Player 1 plays a POINT, *then* Player 2 can choose to play either a POINT or a LINE.

An organic form starts to emerge from the interplay between the players in each quartet, each one cuing off of and responding to one other player in the group in cyclical succession, but with overlapping musical gestures and utterances. The piece relies upon the creative sensitivity of all 16 performers collectively shaping the sound space in real time. Any player can change the pacing by quickening their response time to the previous player and any one player can delay or withhold their response to slacken the pace or thin the sonic density. Everyone somehow knows when the piece is finished, as sound gives way to silence.

– *Stephen Blumberg*

*Thanks to:  
Dr. Kyle Watters  
The Department of Physics & Astronomy*