



STANLEY DRUCKER
NAOMI DRUCKER

play

Meyer Kupferman

WITH BLANCHE ABRAM
KAZUKO HAYAMI
AND THE LAURENTIAN STRING QUARTET

CD102 DDD

Soundspells
Productions
DIGITAL RECORDING

STANLEY DRUCKER
NAOMI DRUCKER
play
MEYER KUPFERMAN

1. TRIPLE PLAY (1980) (dedicated to the Drucker Trio)

- [1]** Little Devil's Pitch [4:40]
- [2]** Tie Score [2:03]
- [3]** Mr. Quicksilver [3:10]
- [4]** A Game of Chance [5:50]
- [5]** Moondream [2:27]

Stanley Drucker ... clarinet (THE DRUCKER TRIO)
Naomi Drucker ... clarinet
Blanche Abram ... piano

2. SOUNDSPELLS FANTASY (1986)

- [6]** (In one movement) [5:03]

Stanley Drucker ... clarinet

The publisher for Mr. Kupferman's "Four Double Features" is General Music Publishing Co. (Screen Gems-EMI) ASCAP
The publisher for all the other Kupferman works is Soundspells Productions
ASCAP

3. **QUARTET FOR CLARINET AND STRINGS (1983-85)**

- 7 Nova Poetica [9:49]
- 8 Little Scherzo [1:42]
- 9 Nova Schematica [7:38]

Naomi Drucker ... clarinet

Laurentian String Quartet (Larry Watson, violin;
Joel Rudin, viola; Rolf Gilstein, cello)

4. **FIVE FLINGS (1984)**

- 10 Andante [1:05]
- 11 Allegretto scherzando [1:39]
- 12 Tranquillo [1:57]
- 13 Con moto [1:11]
- 14 Lento [1:48]

Stanley Drucker ... clarinet

Kazuko Hayami ... piano

5. **FOUR DOUBLE FEATURES (1971)**

- 15 High Tensions [4:03]
- 16 New Games [1:46]
- 17 Ancient Canons [2:38]
- 18 Tight Spirals [2:54]

Stanley Drucker ... clarinet

Naomi Drucker ... clarinet

Notes on the Music

1. **TRIPLE PLAY (1980)** **for two clarinets and piano**

by Meyer Kupferman

Composed especially for the Drucker Trio, Meyer Kupferman's five movement work explores an unusually wide range of instrumental moods and textures - each ensconced in a challenging contest of virtuosity. The particular nature of this ensemble, two clarinets and piano, suggests a field of instrumental gaming which is at once similar and dissimilar. The work is based on the composer's Infinities 12-tone row: G, F, A flat, B, B flat, D, F sharp, E, C, E flat, A, C sharp - which, in this work, is used to point up a serial pattern of dissonant triad formations. These shift curiously from phrase to phrase becoming more intense at climactic moments and almost consonant when the music becomes more relaxed.

The *first movement*, "LITTLE DEVIL'S PITCH", is a fast, rollicking tour de force with each instrument exuberant in its punchy accents and urgent celebrations of sheer rhythmic vitality.

The *second movement*, "TIE SCORE", is a short, dramatic interlude which isolates the principal three-note triadic motif. After the initial piano outburst the music quiets down into an almost static, restless reflection.

The *third movement*, "MR. QUICKSILVER", offers a fast tarentella-like dance with a mysterious middle episode cast in a lugubrious, slow tempo. Stopped inside-piano notes and plucked piano strings are the featured colors here.

The *fourth movement*, "A GAME OF CHANCE", is a free-form composition with the order of the phrases selected by the performers.

Each phrase is a complete entity in itself and is designed to interact harmonically, rhythmically and contrapuntally with the others at any given moment. Big, dramatic mood changes and sharp rhythmic contrasts - the most available tools for the players - turn the evolving forms into an unexpected musical 'gestalt'.

The *finale*, "MOONDREAM", is a quiet, contemplative movement with the two clarinets weaving together in long cantilena lines . . . "like lovers in the moonlight after the game".

2. SOUNDSPELLS FANTASY (1986) **for solo clarinet**

by Meyer Kupferman

"SOUNDSPELLS FANTASY", a short one-movement solo clarinet work, was composed for Stanley Drucker on the eve of a minor railroad accident involving Mr. Kupferman who was injured in a fall. Since he could not sleep he found some diversion in thinking about a new piece - and indeed composed the entire fantasy the same night.

The new work was sight-read perfectly and recorded by the remarkable Stanley Drucker on the following day. Since then the work became the very first music publication of SOUNDSPELLS PRODUCTIONS and obviously became the source of the company's name.

The sustained style of the piece features an expressive cantabile line throughout. This departs from its slow 'Lento' tempo for a short, rubato development section in a somewhat faster tempo. The warm intensity of the clarinet timbre builds rather dramatically towards the end, moving into the instrument's higher registration at the climax. The final phrase is a reprise of the first few bars of the opening. The chromatic nature of Mr. Kupferman's fantasy - almost atonal - is balanced by

periodic suggestions of tonality which are imbedded in the intervallic design. This is a frequent or characteristic approach by the composer to matters of contemporary harmony.

3. **QUARTET FOR CLARINET AND STRINGS (1983-85)**
by Meyer Kupferman

Meyer Kupferman's three-movement work, "QUARTET FOR CLARINET AND STRINGS", was premiered by Naomi Drucker and the Laurentian String Quartet at Carnegie Recital Hall in 1985. Each movement was written a year apart and some were performed separately by such artists as Charles Neidich and Peter Alexander before the official premiere.

The *first movement*, "Nova Poetica", generates most of its material from the opening 6-tone chord, introduced by sustained double-stops in the strings. The clarinet offers a sweeping wide-ranged melodic line - also sustained - as a counterfoil. This immediately sets the stage for a rather intense and evocative opening. Although the dialogue of instrumental voices soon becomes cast in what may be termed a traditional chamber style, the clarinet phrases ultimately emerge as central, even soloistic. The rhythmic and textural scope of the movement develops quite gradually, moving step by step through patterns of faster, more agitated tempi. The lyrical tone, however, is never abandoned and remains, in fact, the governing quality of the entire movement. The closing "Tranquillo" sets up a 'floating' ostinato in the muted strings which becomes slower and more quiet as the music unwinds. The clarinet hovers freely above the strings in very long and distant sounding sustained tones which finally evaporate into silence.

The *second movement*, “Little Scherzo”, is a very short, very fast, muted ‘burlesco’ that seems to be over before it begins. The composer describes it as a brief musical thought, where all four instruments move at a different fast tempo simultaneously . . . “and all are encapsulated in a whisper!”

The *third movement*, “Nova Schematica”, opens with a quiet clarinet solo somewhat reminiscent of the searching lyrical melodic design of the first movement. Little by little the strings join in the musical game. What emerges is a free-form design which gives over to each player a wide range of musical choice. After exploring a series of textural ‘schemes’ or events, the piece hits its strongest peaks, then moves quickly to a surprising coda: a slow, sustained and warmly expressive clarinet solo in G minor. It is curious that the G minor key, only revealed at the end, is, in retrospect, the tonality upon which the entire movement is cast.

4. FIVE FLINGS (1984) for clarinet and piano

by Meyer Kupferman

Meyer Kupferman, who is a virtuoso clarinetist, composed “Five Flings” as a vehicle for himself and Miss Hayami to fill out their joint recital at Sarah Lawrence College in 1984. The work, a short suite in the form of five miniatures, suggests a variety of musical attitudes, each deliberately incomplete in its development. “It’s like a little set of musical cliff-hangers,” says the composer, “. . . and each in a slightly different style from the other.”

The first movement, “*Andante*”, is a simple song-like statement. The “*Allegretto scherzando*” which follows, is a brief excursion in *Klesmar*

style - but somewhat disguised. The third movement, "*Tranquillo*", sets up a quiet mood which incorporates surprising moments of high intensity. The fourth movement, "*Con moto*", is chock full of rhythmic vivacity and sparkles with syncopations and staccato figures. The finale, "*Lento*", is a mysterious movement in a languid tempo, fading away into nothingness at the close.

5. **FOUR DOUBLE FEATURES (1971)** for two clarinets

by Meyer Kupferman

"Four Double Features", a four-movement duo based on Kupferman's "Infinities" 12-tone row, explores a colorful plethora of trenchant 'rainbow' timbres for two clarinets. These sonorities are sometimes complimentary and neatly balanced but they are often what Mr. Kupferman himself describes as ... "restless, extreme, dissonant and earpiercing!"

The *first movement*, "High Tensions", features sharp, biting minor-second dissonances in the high register of both clarinets. These are contrasted by playful, lyric phrases accompanied by unusually gentle motor figures and cadential syncopations.

The *second movement*, "New Games", is fast and relentlessly driving. There is something neatly humorous in its bizarre rhythmic posture.

The *third essay*, "Ancient Canons", is indeed a free, two-part canon which builds to a powerful climax near the end. Mr. Kupferman indicates that he composed this movement in memory of his principal clarinet teacher, Abram Klotzman, who introduced him to the art of two-part counterpoint after each ... "good clarinet lesson!"

The *last movement*, “Tight Spirals”, is based on a simple 8th-note motive which is always centered on a major or minor third. The movement gains in momentum as the 8th-note motive, in its uncompromising rhythmic undulation, clearly dominates the entire musical structure. There is little room for contrast here, except in the area of dynamics, as the notes fly recklessly toward their whirlwind coda.

About the Artists

STANLEY DRUCKER, principal clarinetist of the New York Philharmonic and Grammy nominee whose biography appears in the New Grove Dictionary of Music, is one of the world’s leading clarinet soloists.



NAOMI DRUCKER, celebrated clarinet virtuoso and chamber performer, faculty member and co-director of the American Chamber Ensemble of Hofstra University has, with her colleagues, commissioned, premiered and recorded an impressive number of chamber works by American composers.



BLANCHE ABRAM, distinguished pianist and lecturer, Adjunct Senior Professor of Music and co-director of the American Chamber Ensemble of Hofstra University, is a member of the Drucker Trio. She is a member of the 92nd Street YMHA. Her articles have been published in Clavier Magazine.



KAZUKO HAYAMI, Japanese-born pianist, has been heard extensively in this country as well as Japan. She has won the Artists International Award in 1976, was soloist with the Tokyo Symphony and has toured Japan giving solo recitals, chamber music concerts, master classes and lecture recitals of American music.



THE DRUCKER TRIO, whose performers are husband and wife Stanley Drucker and Naomi Drucker, both clarinetists, and Blanche Abram, pianist, - was formed to promote and present to the larger musical public, works for which there was a very limited literature. It is through their unique talent and imagination that this literature for two clarinets and piano, has grown impressively and now includes compositions in the most challenging contemporary styles.

About the Composer

MEYER KUPFERMAN was born in Manhattan in 1926. He received his education at the High School of Music and Art and Queens College. He is entirely self-taught in music composition. He has been professor of composition and chamber music at Sarah Lawrence College since 1951, where he also served as chairman of the music department for four terms. Mr. Kupferman has been awarded grants and fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, the Ford Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts and the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters. He is a virtuoso clarinetist and founder of two contemporary music ensembles: "MUSIC BY MY FRIENDS" and "SPRING TRIO" which have premiered over 60 solo and chamber works by composers from the United States, Czechoslovakia, Germany, Israel and Belgium. Kupferman is an unusually prolific composer who has an impressive output of work in all forms: 6 operas, 11 symphonies, 9 ballets, 7 string quartets and 10 concerti. His strong interest in jazz has been abundantly demonstrated by such 'classica-jazz' compositions as "CONCERTO FOR CELLO AND JAZZ BAND", "SONATA ON JAZZ ELEMENTS", "MOONCHILD AND THE DOOMSDAY TROMBONE", "TUNNELS OF LOVE", "ADJUSTABLE TEARS", "JAZZ INFINITIES THREE", "JAZZ STRING QUARTET" and "MOONFLOWERS, BABY!" - all an integral part of his "CYCLE OF INFINITIES", a series of concert works all evolved from the same 12-tone row and begun in 1962. Some of his experimental work in tape - 'gestalt' forms include such pieces as "CELESTIAL CITY", "ANGEL FOOTPRINTS", "SUPERFLUTE" and "ILLUSIONS". Among his film scores are such pictures as "BLACK LIKE ME", "HALLELUJA THE HILLS", "BLAST OF

SILENCE", "GOLDSTEIN", "COOL WIND", "FACES OF AMERICA", "FEARLESS FRANK" and the Truman Capote group of three TV films called "TRILOGY", one of which is based on the famous Capote short story, "A CHRISTMAS MEMORY".

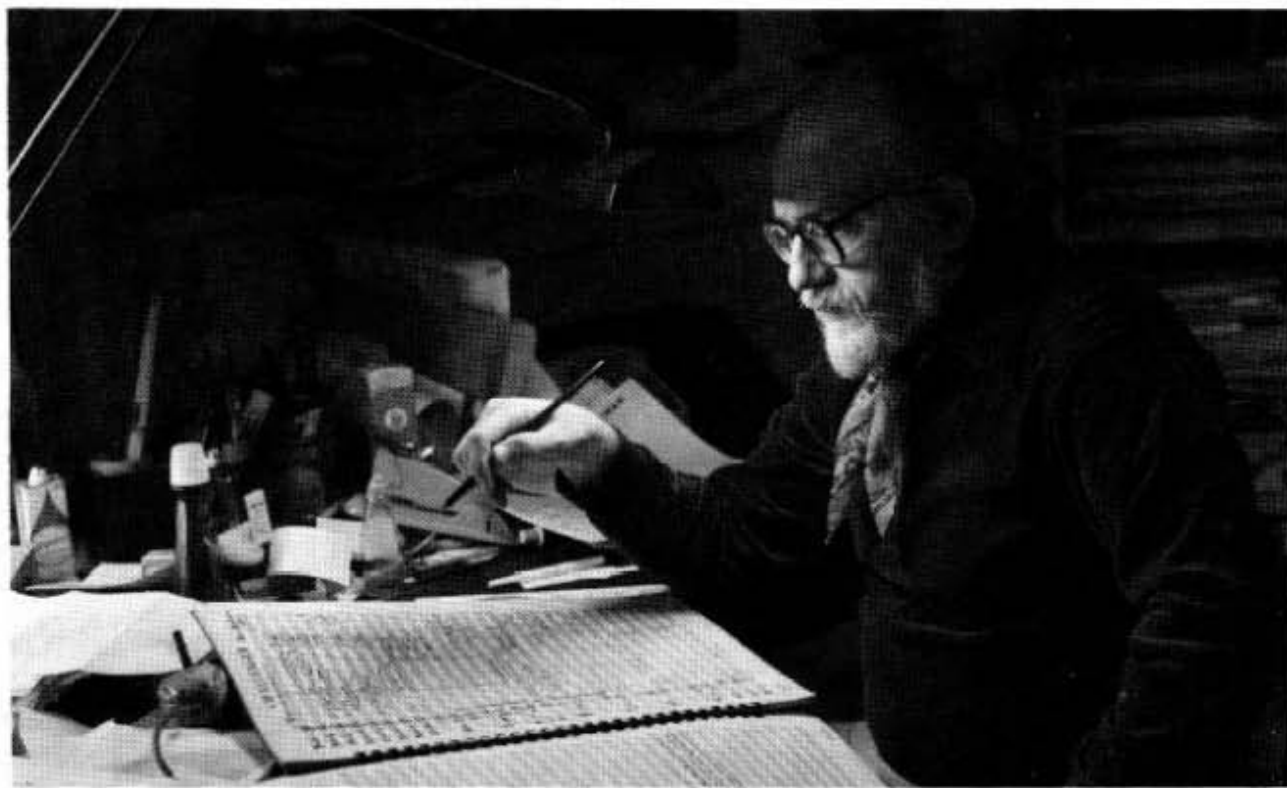


Photo by: Hong Qing Ling

© Copyright 1987 Soundspells Productions
Digital recording produced and engineered by John Yannelli.
Edited by John Yannelli and Meyer Kupferman. Edited at New York Digital Recording, Inc.
Assistant engineer—George Grella.
Cover Design—Wambach Communications.
This is a composer supervised recording.

**STANLEY DRUCKER
NAOMI DRUCKER
play
MEYER KUPFERMAN**



1. TRIPLE PLAY (1980) (dedicated to the Drucker Trio)

- 1 Little Devil's Pitch [4:40]
- 2 Tie Score [2:03]
- 3 Mr. Quicksilver [3:10]
- 4 A Game of Chance [5:50]
- 5 Moondream [2:27]

Stanley Drucker, Naomi Drucker... clarinets
Blanche Abram... piano

2. SOUNDSPELLS FANTASY (1986)

- 6 (In one movement) [5:03]

Stanley Drucker... clarinet

3. QUARTET FOR CLARINET AND STRINGS (1983-85)

- 7 Nova Poetica [9:49]
- 8 Little Scherzo [1:42]
- 9 Nova Schematica [7:38]

Naomi Drucker... clarinet
Laurentian String Quartet (Larry Watson, violin; Joel Rudin, viola; Rolf Gilstein, cello)

4. FIVE FLINGS (1984)

- 10 Andante [1:05]
- 11 Allegretto scherzando [1:39]
- 12 Tranquillo [1:57]
- 13 Con moto [1:11]
- 14 Lento [1:48]

Stanley Drucker... clarinet
Kazuko Hayami... piano

5. FOUR DOUBLE FEATURES (1971)

- 15 High Tensions [4:03]
- 16 New Games [1:46]
- 17 Ancient Canons [2:38]
- 18 Tight Spirals [2:54]

Stanley Drucker, Naomi Drucker... clarinets

**Soundspells
Productions**



Produced by John Yannelli.
This is a composer supervised recording.
© Copyright 1987 Soundspells Productions.