

A Midnight Impression

The initial writing of **A Midnight Impression** (2015) was for a reading by Yarn/Wire, a quartet of two percussionists and two pianists that visited ECU as part of the New Music Initiative in the fall. One of the percussionists had mentioned at the time that, since they needed to use four mallets to play the xylophone part, it was hard to incorporate the wood block into the motion of the hands. So, I thought it would be rather simple to edit that part and get the piece premiered in the following spring. At the time though none of them mentioned that what I was asking for in the percussion parts, was actually impossible! Dr. Wacker had me divide the two percussion parts into three, and Dr. Richardson helped me to make the piano parts more manageable without losing the musical ideas.

The whole of this piece is an experiment with motivic development and ensemble color. In the piano parts you will at times hear sharp attacks and motoric interactions with the Xylophones. Hopefully, it will almost feel as if they are actually percussionist when these things occur. The individual parts require much independence from the players but when they are all played together they act as a single machine.

- Julian Ward -