



## Notes

On *Improvisations for Piano*, Scott Lawlor has entered a territory that is familiar to many artists and yet isn't as common as it probably should be.

One artist paying homage to another artist within their work is a fairly common practice. Typically they do this within the body of their own work: find some little nooks or crannies in which to work in a reference to another artist, or adapt a certain part of that artist's style to fit their own.

However, in some cases, an artist can be so moved by another's work that they set out to write a whole piece in that artist's style. In the extreme, they might write a whole series of works in that artist's style.

Such is the case of *Improvisations for Piano*. Scott Lawlor has created a whole body of works inspired by the work of composer Galina Ustvolskaya (1919-2006). Ustvolskaya was known for developing her own, unique style of composition:

Among its characteristics are: the use of repeated, homophonic blocks of sound [...] unusual combinations of instruments (such as eight double basses, piano and percussion in her *Composition No. 2*); considerable use of extreme dynamics (as in her *Piano Sonata No. 6*); employing groups of instruments in order to introduce tone clusters; and the use of piano or percussion to beat out regular unchanging rhythms (all of her acknowledged works use either piano or percussion, many use both).

– Excerpted from Wikipedia

Taking Ustvolskaya as a starting point, Scott launches into considerable depths exploring unique choices of instruments: cello, flute, bass clarinet and organ, all paired with piano.

It's a work that is a fascinating listen, engrossing from beginning to end. It's an exploration of the intersection of ambient, jazz and classical music.

## Biography

Scott Lawlor is a stay-at-home dad, former broadcaster for StillStream radio, and ambient musician from Corinth, Texas. He started composing music in 1991, but took a break for about 16 years, starting again in 2013. He started broadcasting his show *The Blind Flight* in 2008, which is still going.

He has released works on over fifteen netlabels, including: Treetrunk Records, Free Floating Music, weareallghosts, Aural Films, 45 Echoes Sounds, earth-MANTRA, Buddhist on Fire, BFW recordings, Petroglyph Music, Nostress Netlabel, Dystimbria, Sound For Good Records, Happy Puppy Records, Sombre Soniks, Subterranean Tide, Webbed Hand Records and now CerebralAudio.

## Contact

Scott can be contacted via Twitter (@ScottLawlor), BandCamp and The Blind Flight website.

## Credits

All selections composed, arranged and performed by Scott Lawlor.

All instruments: Scott Lawlor

Cover art: Pim van Dorst.

Liner Notes: George J. De Bruin

Biography based on the Scott Lawlor Interview originally produced for The CerebralRift.

## License

# Creative Commons BY-NC-SA 4.0

*Improvisations for Piano* by Scott Lawlor is licensed under a **Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International License**.

*Improvisations for Piano Liner Notes* by George De Bruin is licensed under a **Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International License**.

### You are free to:

- **Share** – copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format
- **Adapt** – remix, transform, and build upon the material
- The licensor cannot revoke these freedoms as long as you follow the license terms.

**Under the following terms:**

- **Attribution** – You must give *appropriate credit*, provide a link to the license, and *indicate if changes were made*. You may do so in any reasonable manner, but not in any way that suggests the licensor endorses you or your use.
- **NonCommercial** – You may not use the material for *commercial purposes*.
- **ShareAlike** – If you remix, transform, or build upon the material, you must distribute your contributions under the *same license* as the original.
- **No additional restrictions** – You may not apply legal terms or *technological measures* that legally restrict others from doing anything the license permits.

**Other Usage**

Other uses of this work may be negotiated with the artist under the terms of a CC+ License. Please contact Scott Lawlor or *CerebralAudio* for inquiries regarding usage beyond the scope permitted by *CC BY-NC-SA 4.0* license.