Paul A. Epstein

Four Drawings for piano

after Sol LeWitt

1. Drawing No. 5: triangles

11. Drawing No. 3 (Slow Title)

15. Drawing No. 4: triangles, broken horizontal and vertical lines, rectangles, and parallelograms

26. Drawing No. 6: broken horizontal and vertical lines
Program Note

Drawing No. 5
All possible combinations of 1, 2, 3, 4, and 8 variants of a twelve-beat pattern.

Drawing No. 3 (Slow Title)
All possible combinations of 2 of 8 variants of a sixteen-beat pattern.

Drawing No. 4
All possible combinations of 1 and 2 of 8 variants of a forty-two-beat pattern.

Drawing No. 6
All possible combinations of 3 and 4 of 8 variants of a fourteen-note pattern.

Drawings is a group of pieces inspired by and written in tribute to Sol LeWitt, specifically to those drawings in which he takes a set of materials (lines, arcs, shapes, etc.) and displays them in "all possible combinations."

The actual catalyst for the pieces was LeWitt’s use of the grid. Since musical notation is effectively a two-dimensional grid of time (horizontal) and pitch (vertical), I was able to construct a pattern, then turn it on its side to get a second pattern in which horizontal and vertical are exchanged. Pitch becomes rhythm, rhythm becomes pitch. The greater the temporal distance between two notes in one pattern, the larger the pitch interval in the other. Each of these patterns is then combined with its inversion, retrograde, and retrograde inversion to complete the set of eight variants.
Drawing No. 5

triangles

12x12

All possible combinations of one, two, three, four, and eight of eight variants of a twelve beat pattern

for Andy Lee

Moderately Fast

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Drawing No. 3  
(Slow Title)  

16x16

All possible combinations of two  
of eight variants of a sixteen beat pattern

in memory of John Douglas

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Drawing No. 4

triangles, broken horizontal and vertical lines, rectangles, and parallelograms

42x42

All possible combinations of one and two of eight variants of a forty-two beat pattern

to Tom Johnson on his 70th birthday

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Drawing No. 6

horizontal and vertical broken lines

14x14

All possible combinations of three and four of eight variants of a fourteen note pattern

to Kyle Gann

Fast

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