

## *Time and Fire*

Andrew Lewis

*Time and Fire* represents a quest for a more complex and evolutionary language capable of sustaining its argument over longer stretches of time. This has led to a highly intense musical fabric which presents the listener with a very rapid turnover of material, but less in the way of obvious structural signposts. The musical ideas are seldom more than momentary, flaring up brightly for a time, only to be consumed by those coming after.

The stabilising influence offsetting this inferno of ideas is the regular division of time - the concept of pulse, whether manifested as the periodic repetition of individual sound events or the internal micro-pulses within the spectral evolutions of the sounds themselves. Much of the most complex material in the work is underpinned by a subtle but tangible 'beat' which determines the placing of the main events and creates the possibility of expressive changes of tempo. It is this regular division of "time" upon which hang the apparent complexities of the white-hot surface of the music - the "fire".

*Time and Fire* was composed between 1987 and 1990 in the Electroacoustic Music Studio of the University of Birmingham. It was awarded second prize in the Bourges Electroacoustic Music Competition in 1991.

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