# Steve Reich

# New York Counterpoint

for clarinet and tape or clarinet ensemble

Full Score

Hendon Music Boosey & Hawkes

# STEVE REICH

# **NEW YORK COUNTERPOINT**

for Clarinet and Tape or Clarinet Ensemble

Commissioned by the Fromm Music Foundation for Richard Stolzman

First performed January 20, 1986 at Avery Fisher Hall, New York, New York by Richard Stolzman

First performance of the ensemble version on June 21, 1987 at the Florida State University School of Music,
Tallahassee, Florida,
under the direction of James Croft

Recorded in 1985 by Richard Stolzman on RCA 5944-1-RC, 5944-2-RC and 5944-4-RC

NEW YORK COUNTERPOINT (1985) is a continuation of the ideas found in Vermont Counterpoint (1982), where a soloist plays against a pre-recorded tape of himor her-self. In New York Counterpoint the soloist pre-records ten clarinet and bass clarinet parts and then plays a final 11th part live against the tape. The compositional procedures include several that occur in my earlier music. The opening pulses ultimately come from the opening of Music for 18 Musicians (1976). The use of interlocking repeated melodic patterns played by multiples of the same instrument can be found in my earliest works, Piano Phase (for 2 pianos or 2 marimbas) and Violin Phase (for 4 violins), both from 1967. In the nature of the patterns, their combination harmonically, and in the faster rate of change, the piece reflects my recent works, particularly Sextet (1985).

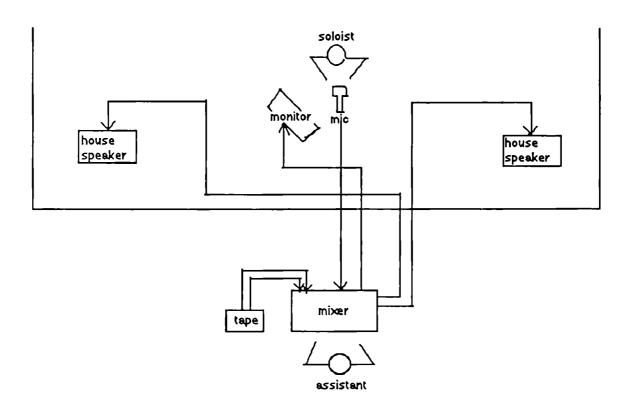
New York Counterpoint is in three movements: fast, slow, fast, played one after the other without pause. The change of tempo is abrupt and in the simple relation of 1:2. The piece is in the meter 3/2 = 6/4 (=12/8). As is often the case when I write in this meter, there is an ambiguity between whether one hears measures of 3 groups of 4 eighth notes, or 4 groups of 3 eighth notes. In the last movement of New York Counterpoint the bass clarinets function to accent first one and then the other of these possibilities, while the upper clarinets essentially do not change. The effect, by change of accent, is to vary the perception of that which in fact is not changing.

- Steve Reich

#### **NOTES ON PERFORMANCE**

When New York Counterpoint is performed with soloist and pre-recorded tape the soloist should be amplified so that his or her volume and timbre will fit properly with the tape. Basically the soloist should always be somewhat louder than the tape but not so loud that the relationship between soloist and tape is lost. An assistant who knows the proper balance between soloist and tape (either from hearing a properly balanced previous performance or reliable recording) should sit at the mixer in a good listening position in the hall and adjust the volume of the soloist vis-a-vis the tape as necessary throughout the performance. Though the rental tape is stereo the soloist and the assistant may decide to play it back in mono in the hall so that all members of the audience get a good overall balance regardless of where they are sitting. In my experience, using a well recorded cassette (with noise reduction) and a small portable professional quality cassette recorder for playback works quite well. It is wise to use a recorder that has a playback speed adjustment so that the pitch of the tape can be slightly adjusted if necessary. Whatever the adjustment in speed made, it should be done in rehearsal and then not touched in performance.

Generally, a monitor speaker (usually wedge-shaped) should be placed on the floor directly next to the soloist so that he or she can hear the tape clearly throughout the performance. A sound check rehearsal is necessary in each different hall to determine the tape/soloist balance for the house, for the monitor, and for the exact placement of house and monitor speakers. A performance diagram follows:



If a performer wishes to make their own pre-recorded tape they are encouraged to do so, and will need to record it in a multi-track tape studio. Generally, at least 16 tracks are necessary to allow for alternate takes during the recording sessions. The multi-track tape is then mixed down to a 2-track stereo (or mono) tape for performance.

### **INSTRUMENTATION**

### Solo Clarinet

# Taped or live Clarinet Ensemble

Clarinet 1

Clarinet 2

Clarinet 3

Clarinet 4

Clarinet 5

Clarinet 6

Clarinet 7

Clarinet 8 (doubles Bass Clarinet)

**Bass Clarinet 9** 

**Bass Clarinet 10** 

Duration: ca. 11 minutes

Performance tape\* or parts are available from the Hendon Music/Boosey & Hawkes Rental Library

\*see Notes on Performance

First printing 1989, United Kingdom

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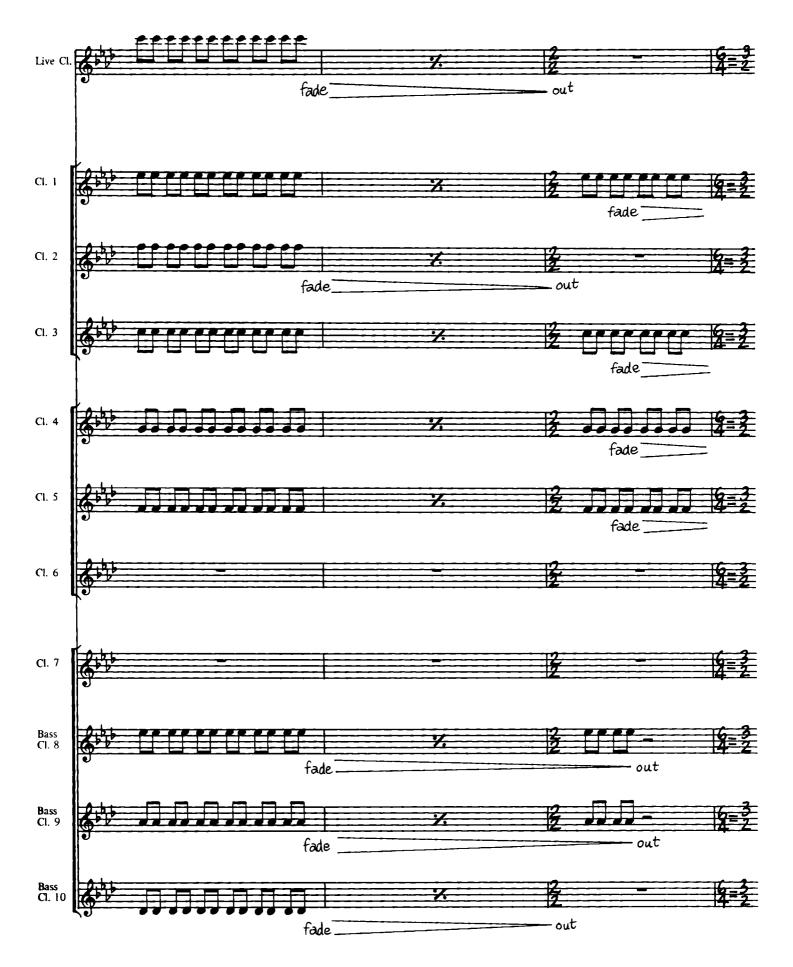




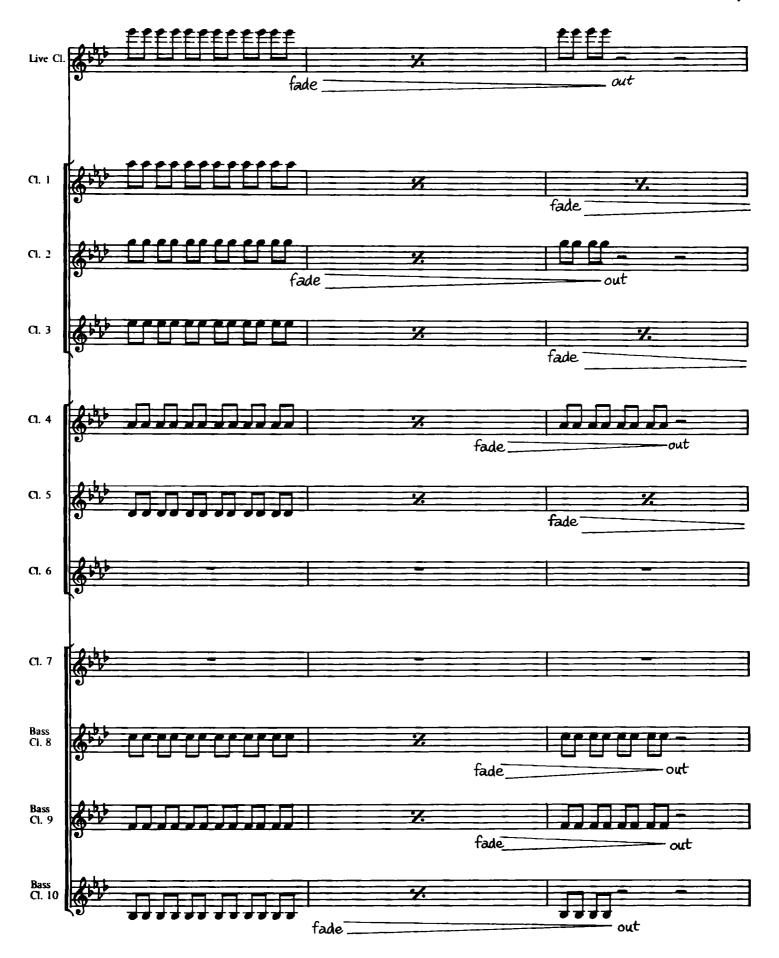






























\* Fades in and out during repeated bars last for duration of repeats.















































































































