Peter Klatzow

DANCES OF EARTH and FIRE

for solo marimba

revised 2007
DANCES OF EARTH AND FIRE

These two ritualistic pieces reflect on the one hand the solidity and all-embracing gravity of the Earth itself, and the evanescent flickering of flame, which always seeks to rise upwards and escape into the beyond. These become metaphors for life and death, or earth-bound; spirit-bound forces.

Nevertheless the very concept of fire implies a destruction of that which is physical into a new, re-created form. This process creates energies of both heat and light, and that equal metamorphosis is created by the player through movement and action, in the realisation of this piece. Similarly, "earth" implies immutability, revolving but unchanging, a sub-tempo Rondo of immeasurable spans. This timelessness is a component of the first movement, in which pulse seems suspended, and silences are more important than sounds.

NB The wedge-shaped staccatissimo indicates a “dead stroke” - ie the mallets are allowed to remain on the notes to deaden the resonance.
Marimba

DANCES OF EARTH and FIRE

for Robert van Sice, with admiration

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Marimba

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Marimba

the upper 3rds barely audible, like harmonics
cantabile, tranquillo (in tempo)

Marimba
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poco meno mosso  \( \frac{q}{=60} \)

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