

Pascal Le Boeuf (b. 1986): Triple Concerto for Violin, Percussion Duo, and Orchestra (2022)

Pascal Le Boeuf is a genre-bending young composer, pianist, and producer whose works fuse influences from jazz, classical, and electronic music. His work “Alkaline” earned a 2017 Grammy nomination for “Best Instrumental Composition.” Other accolades include first place in the 2008 International Songwriting Competition, the ASCAP Foundation Johnny Mandel Prize, and several New Jazz Works Commissions from Chamber Music America.

In the preface to his score, Le Boeuf writes that his Triple Concerto is “about new beginnings, adapting to change, and creating stability in a chaotic environment...” In the midst of the pandemic, Le Boeuf and his partner, also a composer, welcomed a new baby, Baxter, into their family. Both parents were determined to find time to continue to compose, and, at that point, art truly began to imitate life. On the form of the piece, the composer confesses that “the structure is based on childcare.” In the notebook he used to draft musical ideas, Le Boeuf had scribbled the couple’s hectic daily plan to ensure care for Baxter and time for them both to write music. According to the composer, the back-and-forth relay “provided a perfect structure for the form of the concerto—or was it the other way around? I don’t think I’ve ever restarted a piece so many times, generated so many ideas, or been sidetracked so consistently.” Ultimately these diversions and false starts found their way into the heart of the concerto “in the form of themes traded between the soloists and the orchestra that are consistently interrupted or redirected to other areas.” For all the parents in the audience who remember similar scenarios, this piece is for you!