

Full Faith and Credit

Full Faith and Credit was inspired by the economic crisis that struck in 2008. Well before the crisis actually hit, I had become obsessed with the unsustainable nature of our economy, with the huge housing bubble and the endless sea of debt that seemed to be engulfing everything. *Full Faith and Credit* is not literally programmatic – there is no Debt Leitmotif or Goldman Sachs Chord – but it is inspired by the general mood of foreboding that I felt as the crisis unfolded, and the sense of a seemingly orderly, yet ultimately corrupt and unsustainable system collapsing into chaos.

The musical language of the work draws heavily on post-minimalist and vernacular styles, but combines these with free, improvisatory gestures, and a dramatic narrative structure. The rigid underlying grid becomes bent and distorted by the improvisatory elements, and the work gets increasingly chaotic as it goes, until a set of complex cross-rhythms culminates in six thunderously dissonant, brutal piano chords, followed by an airy, evaporating coda. *Full Faith and Credit* was commissioned by the Adorno Ensemble and premiered in April 2009 at San Francisco State University.