



Pressing forward, pushing
back

for
Flute and Piano

Kirk O'Riordan

Pressing forward, pushing back (2006)

Kirk O’Riordan

Notes

Approx. duration: 13 minutes

Commissioned by: Reuben Councill and Holly Roadfeldt-O’Riordan.

Premiere performance: January 20, 2007, Susquehanna University.

Reuben Councill, flute
Holly Roadfeldt-O’Riordan, piano

Program Notes

Pressing forward, pushing back, written in 2006, is a substantial new work by Kirk O’Riordan that would best be described as a single-movement sonata. It takes the listener through several stages and moods: it is at times frenetic, angry, sad, lyrical; but it ends with what I feel is a beautifully hopeful statement. Rather than melodic phrasing, I like to describe this piece as being organized with “phrasing by sonic event.”

A few words from the composer may set the tone:

“Often new ideas are resisted simply because they are new. There is no rational explanation for this: the ideas cannot be opposed with logic or reason, but they are still opposed...and so forces align for or against until the good new ideas are either victorious or forced to submit.”

Notes by Reuben Councill