

Heartsounds:

“Heartsounds” was composed in 1983. David Lanz’s career as pianist didn’t completely start at this time. There was a small spark in his career, but it didn’t take off until the late 1980’s. This was one of Lanz’s first composition released. At the time, Lanz’s friend asked him if he could compose a song to accompany a seminar for him. At the seminar, guests requested copies of this song. Because of the popularity of this song, Narada Record Label asked Lanz to sign a contract with them. Some other songs that Lanz composed around this time was “Valencia”, “Homecoming”, and “Dream Field”. The producer of this song was Paul Speer, a close friend and musician to David Lanz.

Audiences loved this song so much that they were requesting copies. “Heartsounds” has appeared in five of his albums. Like most of his compositions, he would play it for audiences upon their request or when he wanted to play it.

I first heard this song when I bought the piano book. I decided to listen to all the songs before I played them to see what song I wanted to learn first. This song was the first song and I really liked it. I chose to share this song because it is the first New Age piano piece that Lanz composed that was noticed by the public. “Heartsounds” was the very beginning of his career as a pianist. I like this song because of the fast tempo and the repetition of Themes A and B.

Critics have said that Lanz had a “personal style in the impressionistic mode that created a breathtaking statement.”

This song is in a major key with duple simple meter. There is a moderate tempo and mild dynamics. It stays mezzo forte for most of the song. The song starts with Theme A. There is no introduction. Without a transition, Theme B starts with a little louder dynamics. Theme B is repeated completely the same way. There is then a Transition to Theme C, where the dynamics get softer. Theme A then repeats with no transition and then Theme B repeats for the third time. To finish the song off, Theme A reoccurs and a coda ends the song on a perfect cord.

Cristofori’s Dream

“Cristofori’s Dream” was composed in 1988. Lanz was starting to do more with his career in New Age piano. This time period would mark the true beginning. “Skyline Firedance” also was composed around this time. Lanz wrote this song as a dedication to Bartolomeo Cristofori, who invented the piano, and his dream for the future greatness of the piano. Narada Records Label was the producer of this song.

“Cristofori’s Dream” reached number one on the New Age Billboard, where it remained for twenty-seven weeks. People began to respond positively to Lanz’s compositions. He started to become popular.

According to Lanz, “Cristofori’s Dream” has a storyline to it. The song starts with Cristofori hard at work creating the piano. It is late at night as he slowly drifts to sleep. In a dream, two goddesses appear unto him and show him the evolution of his invention and the impact that the piano will have in many generations to come. Cristofori awakes and continues to work until he completes the piano.

I first heard this song when I was exploring David Lanz’s music. When I heard it, it became my favorite song that he wrote. I chose to share this selection because it is my favorite and it also made David Lanz more popular than he was before. I like it because of its dramatic dynamic changes and the beautiful melody and chords. I also like this song because of its compound meter.

People have really enjoyed this song. One fan of Lanz’s said “that it is an inspiring song and brings a lot of self-reflection. It gave people hope and the song speaks to the soul.”

I am still working on breaking this song down. It’s been a complicated song.

Return to the Heart:

“Return to the Heart” was composed in 1991 during the middle of David Lanz’s career. “Bridge of Dreams” and Lanz’s Christmas album were composed approximately at this time as well. He wrote this song because of the reunion of his wife and stepdaughter. Narada labels was the producer.

This song was number one on the New Age Billboard chart. By this time, people loved his music.

This was the first song I heard that David Lanz composed. I was also the first song I learned to play. I loved this song because of the emotion in this song. The dynamics are drastic and there is so much development. I am moved every time that I hear or play this song. I have chosen this piece of music because if it weren’t for this song, I probably wouldn’t have discovered David Lanz and wouldn’t be doing this composer report on him.

Critics say that this song shows a “remarkable sense of maturity, elegance, and taste.”

There is no introduction for “Return to the Heart.” It starts with Theme A. Theme A is then repeated, but with a little more development. Theme B then occurs with loud dynamics. Theme C follows with a quiet, almost minor mode. Theme A reoccurs with more ornamentation. Theme D enters with the loudest dynamics in the song and more movement. The coda finishes this song off with a recapitulation of Theme A.

Sarah - a most excellent effort. You have addressed the popularity of the music, its success and technical and formal aspects of the music. You have also included judicious quotes which help us to understand more fully the stature of the composer and how his music has been received. I enjoyed reading also your reactions to the music as a consumer and fellow musician. A sterling effort!