

ERIC HALL
(b. 1964)

Michigan: Summer of 2024
(2025)

Fixed Media
for
Bassoon and Electronics

DURATION: 5'15"

PROGRAM NOTES

This piece was written using piano as a placeholder for the material that is now presented with electronic sounds. The electronics attempt to capture the musical gestures which were present in the piano part.

The structure began like a 'theme and variations'. It evolved during the compositional process, deviating significantly from that traditional form. However, echoes of the original motif are present throughout.

The bassoon's melodies rely on a mode (neither major nor minor) devised for this piece. While those melodies stay within a tonal framework, the electronics do not.

The inspiration for this piece comes from living in Michigan. It can be a beautiful place, especially during the summer months. That splendor evolves as the seasons chase each other through the year. It also changes in harmony with much longer cycles: as each of us gets older, life's accumulations will change how we experience beauty. Understanding and recognition temper beauty with an appreciation that is tinged with melancholy and resignation. The limits imposed by time make beauty both keener and a little bit grayer.

