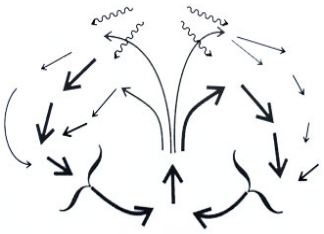
Dave Maric
Trophic Cascades (2014), for two pianos and two percussion

Wilderness and wildlife have fascinated Dave Maric since childhood. As a schoolboy he realized that the British landscape in which he grew up lacked these aspects of a diverse and flourishing ecosystem due to deforestation and farming. “My childhood dreams, about entering a forest to spy on animals were only answered by a ghostly emptiness. Only my imagination could fill these holes.”

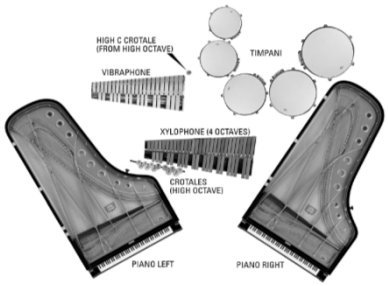
Trophic Cascades is inspired by recent scientific research into the interrelationship of lifeforms in specific ecosystems found around the world, and the consequences in those locations of hostile or regenerative human activity. All organisms and the environment they live in are interconnected. Sometimes the connection is obvious, other times it is subtle or invisible. Ecosystem changes result in a cascade of effects that impact biodiversity both downwards and upwards. Trophic levels refer to the position of an organism in a food chain.

Movt 1 : Apex Predators
Movt 2 : sub-Sahara
Movt 3 : North Atlantic
Movt 4 : Aleutians
Movt 5 : Bamff
Movt 6 : Yellowstone



Instrumentation:

- Piano Left
- Piano Right
- Tuned Percussion:
  Xylophone (4 octaves)
  Vibraphone
  Crotales (High octave brass cymbals)
- Timpani (20”, 23”, 26”, 29”, 32”)



Duration: approx. 28 minutes
Commissioned by *Doelen* (Rotterdam, Netherlands) and *Capital University* (Columbus, OH)

- *Apex Predators* reside at the top of the food chain on which no other creatures predate. They thereby play a crucial role in the health of ecosystems. Lions, sharks, eagles, polar bears, wolves and, of course, humans are all apex or super predators.
- *Sub-Saharan* Africa is the stage where the decline of the lion has resulted in a population outbreak of baboons, a predator at a lower trophic level. This has impacted the already declining populations of elephants and giraffes and causes a conflict with local farmers as the primates raid crops and spread parasites.
- *North Atlantic* Ocean tropic levels are reduced by overfishing, thereby shifting the ecosystem from high-trophic long-lived fish such as cod and haddock to short-lived planktivorous animals, shrimps and herring.
- *Aleutian* island bird and plant life has been significantly altered by the introduction of predators such as the fox and the sea otter. This string of several hundred islands near Alaska and the Bering Sea has traditionally been essential for seabird breeding. The introduction of the fox, hundred years ago, has resulted in a near-extinguishment of

seabirds on multiple islands thereby disrupting plant and soil nutrients. The arrival of the sea otter has decimated the population of Bald Eagles.

- *Bamff* is an estate in Perthshire, Scotland, that is frequently visited by the composer. A rewilding project has been underway for about a decade, introducing beavers that had been wiped out altogether by hunters in the last four centuries. By converting ditches into a series of ponds and swamps by building a series of fine dams, the beaver families have created a new habitat that benefitted many other wetland species, including otters, herons, ducks as well as a myriad of invertebrates and amphibians.
- *Yellowstone*: Dramatic changes occurred in the Yellowstone National park ecosystem when the gray wolf was reintroduced in 1995. Did vegetation increase due to reduced elk and other herbivore numbers or was it the 'landscape of fear' causing the herbivores to change foraging behavior? Nature is complex and stubborn, and men's understanding of trophic cascades is still in its infancy.

Dave Maric is a British composer and performer of acoustic and electronic music that is mysterious, fluent and full of fascinating melodies which are integrated seamlessly into the rhythm of a piece. They need no long explanations to be understood. This can for one be attributed to the open approach Maric has towards composing. His music nestles comfortably with many genres and is capable evoking the past while remaining firmly integrated into the present, albeit with a personal preference for tonal music. Maric has also proven to be very open to multimedia and cross-disciplinary experiments, working for dance companies and ballet productions. And then there is his curiosity for the mechanisms of Pop.

His first commissioned piece (Trilogy, 2000, a solo work for the percussionist Colin Currie) inspired a number of new chamber commissions for high profile classical soloists including violinist Viktoria Mullova and pianists Katia and Marielle Labèque which subsequently led to the first ever touring project featuring his own music: the Katia Labèque Band.

Graduating from City University, London in 1991, his noted abilities as a pianist (which combined classical training with autodidactic explorations of various forms of jazz, vernacular music and improvisation) swiftly led to a diverse range of performance opportunities with, amongst others, Marc Ribot, Gunther Schuller, John Adams, BBC Symphony Orchestra, London Philharmonic Orchestra, London Sinfonietta, Steve Martland Band and numerous jazz and rock bands.

The Lucerne Festival, Radio France, Borletti-Buitoni Trust and BBC Radio 3 have all commissioned works from Maric, including pieces for L'Orchestre National de Montpellier, trumpeter Håkan Hardenberger and guitarist Fred Frith. Maric has an ongoing artistic collaboration with Colin Currie through regularly developing new works for percussion which have become standard repertoire for many students and soloists around the world. Many of these works appear on the critically acclaimed album recording *Borrowed Time* released by Onyx Classics in 2007.

More recent projects include a concerto for trumpet and symphony orchestra for Ole Edvard Antonsen*,* and a digital album recording of composed and improvised solo/multi-tracked piano music for various pianos and locations *(The Pianos Work, 2014)*.

Maric has worked extensively with other artistic disciplines ranging from spoken word to video art, animation, shadow puppetry and dance where he has produced a wide variety of music ranging from short electronic pieces to full evening orchestral scores. These include works for companies such as the Theatre of Dolls, Royal Opera House Covent Garden, Northern Ballet Theatre, Finnish National Opera and the Bern Ballet.