

Program Notes

Haven came about when my friend Thad Anderson asked me to write a piece for a tour he was going on in spring 2009. I always like working with him and gladly accepted. We agreed the new piece would be a chorale-like harmonically driven piece for marimba solo.

There is a four note motive stated in an inner voice in the first three bars that serves as the main melodic material. The chords used in these first three bars likewise establish the harmonic language of the piece. This language is more of a conversation between two different worlds of harmony. One is a modal, diatonic world; the other is a realm of more dissonant harmonies generated from the last chord of the opening three bars:

The image shows a musical score for the first three bars of the piece. It is written for a marimba solo, using a grand staff with two bass clefs. The time signature is 4/4. The first bar is marked *pp* (pianissimo) and features a four-note motive in the inner voice (the second staff). The second bar is marked *p* (piano) and continues the motive. The third bar is marked *p* and concludes the opening three bars. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings.

The piece unfolds as a conversation between these two types of harmonies as they attempt to coexist and in turn each becomes a haven for and from the other.