

PERSONAL NOTE FROM THE COMPOSER

SUBJECT: "SIDE EFFECTS" By Neil Slater

September 22, 2010

Hello Chris,

Again, I am very pleased that you have chosen Side Effects for your performance at the KMEA Northeast District.

I have read your impressive overview and analysis of Side Effects, and feel very fortunate that you have selected my composition for such a prestigious event. You have covered every detail that I can imagine, plus a few more that I never have thought about, therefore, I am certain that Side Effects is in very capable hands.

As you know, composers/writers are never certain what happens to their music after publication, and I am very happy, in fact lucky, that you have chosen my composition to perform at this event.

I have one comment that might be mentioned to your soloists, and that is to remind them that the melody is cued on their parts, and not to be played as is. Ideally, I am encouraging them to play short excerpts or fragments of the melody that may be subtly incorporated into their solos. My reasoning is that I would like to encourage young improvisers to experiment by playing motives or pieces of the melody from the composition they are playing, rather than licks or exercises that have been memorized, but have nothing to do with the music they are performing in real time.

Again, thank you for selecting Side Effects for your concert.

Sincerely,
Neil