

Jeff Myers

Makassar

Instruments: clarinet, percussion, piano, violin, violoncello

Makassar Strait is a body of water which connects the southern part of Mindanao, Philippines (by way of the Celebes Sea) with the lower Indonesian Island of Java (by way of the Java Sea). This conduit is a metaphor for the connection between the Filipino and Indonesian folk music in this piece. There is a shadow of the folk music, sometimes coming to the fore and other times receding in a very (literally) abstracted way. My use of both idioms is distorted by my compositional techniques; the final product probably has more to do with my own tastes than anything else. *Makassar Strait* was written for the ensemble Transit, which gave the premiere in 2008.