

Two Circles Together – October 19, 2002

Representing NJGC: Jonathan B, Karl B, Terry K, Jim L, Rick M, Leslie, S, Tom R, Mark B.

Representing NYGC: Barry C, Billy J, Alex, L, Kevin P, Alan N, Mark B.

Special Guest: Stephanie Kalka – Alexander Teacher in training.

I picked up Alan at 7:00 AM. We arrive in Pottersville at 8:30. We hit the local deli for coffee. We return to the community center. Tom arrives. Hello's etc. Jonathan arrives to open the center.

Other members show up and we prepare the room for sitting.

9:00 Sitting.

9:20 Siting ends – 10 minutes for circle setup.

9:30: First full circle meeting. Tune – This writer starts a circulation. Following the circulation Writer welcomes everyone and requests that two people from each circle write notes for the day and post them on their perspective circle web sites. Writer suggests that in the interest of time each circle will have two hours to present material leaving about two hours of full group work for the end of the day.

Writer states that because New York is effectively the guest in New Jersey we will present our work first. Terry asks if we should have a coin toss. Writer states we will flip and NST pick! Writer explains that NYGC will perform what is termed the “NYGC emerging theme”. We perform the piece for NJGC. Note: we chose to sit as one circle with no distinction between NJ or NY. Following the performance and applause (!) Rick asks two questions: 1. Did you write this together? Yes. Did you make mistakes during this performance? Yes.

Writer asks the NJGC circle to choose one of the following options: one is that everyone learns the main melody or we split up into three smaller groups to learn the individual parts. NJGC chooses to break up and learn all the parts. The three circles are: Main Melody lead by Mark with assistance from Barry. NJGC participants: Jonathan, Karl & Rick. Harmony lead by Alan with assistance from Billy. NJGC participants: Jim & Tom. Bass lead by Alex with assistance from Kevin. NJGC participants: Terry & Leslie. Writer suggests that we work for one hour return to the circle to see where we are and then return to the smaller circle.

One hour later: Circle forms and we discuss where everybody is. Main melody circle completed the first two sections and started to work on the 5-7-6-4 section. Harmony circle completed the intro section. Bass circle completed to up to the E-link. We decide to play the piece in its entirety and ask everyone to play what they have learned. Before we begin this writer discussed the form of the piece which is:

Intro theme 4X - Section in nine 4X - Back to intro theme 2X – Section in nine 8X – 5764 chord Section 2X – E-link 2X – chord in three 2X chord in four 2X- Section in nine 8X – Intro theme once.

We play the theme discuss some of the changes and play it again. Two more following this and we take a ten minute break.

Back in the small circles for an hour and then the full circle. Main melody gets to the chord in three. Harmony has one section to complete. Basses are done. Once again we play the piece a few times. It sounds much better with multiple guitars playing all of the parts. We break for lunch at 12:50.

All of us head down to the deli for sandwiches. We return from the deli and set up a table to eat together. (Jonathan leaves to visit and have lunch his father). One performance at Lunch by Rick.

We clean up prepare the circle.

2:00: Back in the circle we tune – Writer asks how we should proceed. Alan requests fifteen minutes to complete work on the Harmony. The circle agrees. The basses stay with the main melody and we practice

together. Writer then suggests a metronome set at 100 (eighth notes). Terry brings out Dr. Beat. We run a few with the metronome and then a few without. Upon completion the Harmony circle returns.

Stephanie arrives. Stephanie works on us in the circle and with some during breaks. Many thanks!!

We work on the theme a few more times. In the end NJGC completed all parts in 2.5 hours.

Onto NJGC

Terry leads the circle and presents Ayacucho in four note clusters. We add four notes and then loop the additional notes. Fourteen is the number for the first phrase. We loop this for a while. Next the phrase is counted in seven aloud while looping. Once this is established we move to the next chord. We learn the second chord section and cycle this. Next we add the first section which is played four times followed by the second chord two times and back to the first for two. This is followed by two more chords each counted (by me) as two sixes plus a two. We work on these transitions and then play the piece A few times.

Break

Back in the circle we review the form a few times. The aim of this piece is to circulate it. Whenever there is a mistake we start again. And so off we go.....squinting and flinching faces "Oh Jeez!" Head shaking, deep breaths, looking down at the floor and some laughter about missing notes. We stopped on a few occasions to regroup. At 4:45 this writer suggests that we become aware of time we have left. Terry suggests another five minutes and then leaving it, which we do.

Break – Terry approaches this writer and requests that we meet for a few minutes without guitars.

We meet back in the circle without guitars and standing. Stephanie takes us through a shoulder and arm expanding exercise. This writer felt the exercise was very helpful and rewarding. I will add this to my back expanding exercise on a chair. I'm starting to build an AT library in by body!

In the circle with guitars we tune. This writer starts a circulation. Both circulations today included multiple circulations, changing directions and some anticipation. Suggestions were made to review today's work before we leave. Agreed but first, we worked on *Hearing the next note in the melody circulation*. A note is passed and the next player attempts to play the note that they hear. This proceeds until the circle is complete. Following this, the melody is play two times in succession then in reverse. After a few attempts there was a realization that the reversing circulation should start with the last note not the first note. We adjust. Once this is completed we add an additional melody. Everyone is playing two notes four times in both directions except for those playing the first and last notes in this case Mark and Barry.

We review Ayacucho twice in unison. We play the NYGC theme twice. We circulate. End of meeting.

Following the meeting some members went to Chatfields for dinner.