



16 November 2020

## David Snow - *Vex americana*: self-mutilating variations on a nationalist theme

16 November 2020 @ 2:00 am - 4:30 am

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— [more details](#)

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*Vex americana* was inspired by Erik Satie's *Vexations* for piano, which can last up to 24 hours in performance. Unlike *Vexations*, which requires 840 static repetitions of a musical phrase, *Vex americana* comprises 240 variations on *America First*, composed by Milwaukee dentist Uno Nyman in 1916. The tune is subjected to incremental and recursive permutation, so that by the conclusion the theme has been rendered unrecognizable. The 240 variations represent the number of years between the establishment of the American republic in 1776 and the end of that experiment in 2016 with the election of the country's first fascist president.

The compositions of David Jason Snow have been performed in concert by the Ensemble Intercontemporain at the Centre Georges Pompidou in Paris, the Banda Municipal de Bilbao at the Euskalduna Palace in Bilbao, The New Juilliard Ensemble at the Museum of Modern Art in New York, and many other artists and ensembles internationally. His fixed media audio and visual works have been performed at the Musinfo Journées Art & Science Festival in Bourges, the Festival Exhibitronic in Strasbourg, the Festival Internacional de Video Arte y Música Visual in Mexico City, the Sound Thought Festival in Glasgow, and Echofluxx in Prague.

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