Four Voice Canon #7
(for gamelan)

Written originally in 1990 for (and premiered by) Gamelan Son of Lion, at the request of Barbara Benary, FVC#7 is an attempt to apply mensuration canon and permutation ideas of my other Four Voice Canons naturally onto the orchestrational structure of Central Javanese gamelan. There are multiple parts (typically, four or five, including gong, kenong, balungan and panerusan) in each of the four voices of the canon, graduated in tempo and pitch. Any tempo ratios may be used for the mensuration canon. The “score” is thus a kind of template, or complex recipe: the ensemble decides upon their own pathet (mode), and seleh (cadential patterns of four pitches) to be used in the permutation process. The piece may be played, however, by any ensemble, using the colotomic structure of Central Javanese gamelan as a model.