

Chakra (1990)

Narongrit Dhamabutra

"*Chakra* consists of three movements. The first is based on three motivic ideas: the leap by the clarinet, an arabesque figuration of the piano, and the melodic motive of the violin based on a major and minor second. The unfolding of this movement is free and rhapsodic. The second movement employs contrasting materials, the fast and active gesture and the sustained, meditative middle section. The return of the former material creates the three-part construction. The last movement is a free variation of the first movement. Therefore, the title *Chakra* (a Thai term denoting the circle) refers to the overall structure of the whole piece.

The harmonic language of the work includes a free use of all twelve pitches in the chromatic scale. In general, there are no particular orders or series of pitch classes; however, the basic intervallic structure of the principal motive (major and minor seconds) helps to unify the piece."

—Narongrit Dhamabutra

The world premiere of *Chakra* was on June 24, 1991 at the Wharton Center, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan.

Narongrit Dhamabutra (born 1962, Thailand) obtained his bachelor's degree in Bangkok's Chulalongkorn University. Continuing his studies in the United States, he received a master's degree in piano performance from Northwestern University and a Ph.D. in composition at Michigan State University. Upon completing his education, he returned to Thailand to "promote classical music in Thailand to the level equal to that existing in the developed countries."

Dhamabutra's compositions have been performed regularly by leading orchestras and ensembles in the United States, Europe, Asia, and Australia including the Japan Shinsei Symphony Orchestra, Hiroshima Symphony Orchestra, Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, IRCAM Ensemble, New York New Music Ensemble, and in Paris, France, the Ensemble Stella Nova and the Ensemble Intercontemporain. In his homeland, his works have been performed by the Bangkok Symphony Orchestra and the National Symphony Orchestra of Thailand.

Dhamabutra's orchestral piece *Dhamachakre: Sinfonia for Orchestra* was performed and recorded by the Civic Orchestra of Chicago receiving critical acclaim from the *Chicago Tribune*: "The piece shows remarkable technical dexterity and instrumental imagination," while the *Chicago Sun Times* called the work "an exotic, colorful, evocative but also very carefully and solidly-written orchestral piece." *Chakra* is a trio version of *Dhamachakra*.

Dhamabutra is Professor of Music at the Faculty of Fine and Applied Arts at Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand. In 2008, The Ministry of Culture awarded him the prestigious Silpathorn Artist for his outstanding artistic career.

Additional information is available at www.narongrit.com.