

*Sonorous Ray* (2005)

P.Q. Phan

"*Sonorous Ray* refers to a string of sound developing through gradual harmonic transformation and mutation. It is comparable to a single ray of light shining through dark thick cloud. This 'ray' unfolds without interruption, gradually and positively penetrates into one's mind. Thus, the composition is spiritually inclined. The harmonic language in this work employs loosely on concept of spectralism, which is dealing with perceptions in time, space, and timbres. The composition is written for and dedicated to the Verdehr Trio for their dedication and commitment to music of our time."

—P.Q. Phan

The world premiere of *Sonorous Ray* was on January 23, 2007 at Grand Valley State University, Allendale, Michigan.

P.Q. Phan (born 1962, Vietnam) became interested in music while studying architecture in 1978 and taught himself to play the piano, compose, and orchestrate. In 1982, he immigrated to the United States and began his formal musical training. He earned his Bachelor of Music from the University of Southern California and his Master of Arts, Master of Music, and Doctor of Musical Arts in Composition from the University of Michigan.

Phan's music has been performed throughout the United States, Canada, Mexico, and Europe as well as in Israel, Turkey, Australia, New Zealand, China, Hong Kong, Singapore, Korea, and Japan. Commissioned works have been performed by the Kronos Quartet (3), American Composers Orchestra, Cleveland Chamber Symphony (2), Greater East Lansing Symphony, Obscura Trio, Samaris Piano Trio, Ensemble Alternance de Paris, Core Ensemble, and the Pittsburgh New Music Ensemble (2). Among recorded performances are *Tragedy at the Opera* (Kronos Quartet), *Nights of Memory* (Michael McCormick, guitar), and *Banana Trumpet Games* (Pamela Decker, organ).

Phan's awards include a Rome Prize, Rockefeller Foundation Grant, Meet the Composers, Music Alive Residency Award with the American Composers Orchestra, ASCAP Standard Awards, Ohio Arts Council Individual Artist Fellowships, Charles Ives Center for American Music, the Concordia Orchestra, and residencies with the Kronos Quartet and at the MacDowell Colony. As a guest composer, he has appeared at several music festivals including Asian Music Week 2000, the Asian New Music Festival in Tokyo, the New Music Festival at Hamilton College (New York), Asian Composers' Forum in Sendai, Japan, the New Music Festival at University of California at Santa Barbara, and Music Lives in Pittsburgh.

Phan is currently an Associate Professor of Composition at Indiana University at Bloomington, having taught previously at the University of Illinois and Cleveland State University.

Additional information is available at [www.pqphan.com](http://www.pqphan.com).