

# Quartet for a New Beginning

for Violin, B<sup>b</sup> Clarinet, Violoncello, and Piano

July 4—December 16, 2006

Duration: 23 minutes

Eric Pritchard, first violinist with the Ciompi Quartet at Duke University, recommended that I write a quartet with the same instrumentation as Messiaen's *Quartet for the End of Time*. My work is very different—and with far briefer program notes! The first three movements are titled after the three gunas of Hinduism. Rajas is restless activity, Tamas is darkness, and Satvas is spiritually elevated and full of light. The last movement is a celebration after the Earth is green again and the dust settles following the changes to come in the near future.

There is also a version of this work with alto saxophone instead of clarinet, and another for piano quartet. I hope that musicians will consider QFNB short enough to join Messiaen's quartet on the same program.

In recognition of his good idea, and in gratitude for helping bring my music to life, this work is dedicated to Eric Pritchard—I hope he has fun with it!

This quartet was premiered at Weymouth Center in Southern Pines, NC on January 10, 2010, and had its concert hall premier on February 10, 2010 at the Nelson Music Room at Duke University in the memorial concert for my sister Akanda. Both performances were by Aurora Musicalis.

## Bill Robinson

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