

*After Blue* was commissioned by the Paul Fromm Music Foundation at Harvard University, for the New Millennium Ensemble. My conception was to use the diverse instrumental resources of the ensemble to create a kaleidoscopic panorama of strongly etched lines of constantly shifting vibrant color. The instruments are combined and recombined in myriad ways, sometimes featuring a soloist, other times tossing melodic fragments back and forth in spirited interplay. The music falls into three large sections. The thematically related outer sections, marked respectively *allegro con brio* and *allegro capriccioso*, are bright and extroverted, though not without moments of lyricism. In the centerpiece, marked *adagio fantastico*, the mood and use of instrumental color become dramatic and atmospheric. *After Blue* is related stylistically to one of my earlier compositions, *A Serenade for Six*, for which it is intended as a companion piece.