

Visual Abstract (2002)

- I. Bells - Forwards and Backwards
- II. Dome of Heaven
- III. Dance

Instrumentation: flute, clarinet, violin, cello, piano, and 1 percussion

Duration: 10 minutes.

Premiered by the Pittsburgh New Music Ensemble under the direction of Kevin Noe on August 10, 2002, Hazlett Theater, Pittsburgh, PA. Filmmaker Jean Detheux has also created a film to this music. The work may be performed with or without film.

Written for the Pittsburgh New Music Ensemble, each of the three movements of *Visual Abstract* was inspired by a visual image. The first uses the image of a tolling bell, and also its sound - a loud attack followed by a decay - and its sound backwards - a large crescendo followed by an accented note. The second movement uses the general image of looking up at a church dome from the inside, but was inspired specifically by Borromini's dome at the church of San Carlo alle Quattro Fontane in Rome, which, to me, evokes a sense of infinity and timelessness. The third movement uses the image of a group of dancers creating an energetic choreography.

-- Pierre Jalbert