



Illinois Wesleyan University
Digital Commons @ IWU

John Wesley Powell Student Research
Conference

2000, 11th Annual JWP Conference

Apr 14th, 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Student Compositions

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/jwprc>

"Student Compositions" (2000). *John Wesley Powell Student Research Conference*. 1.
<https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/jwprc/2000/music/1>

This Event is protected by copyright and/or related rights. It has been brought to you by Digital Commons @ IWU with permission from the rights-holder(s). You are free to use this material in any way that is permitted by the copyright and related rights legislation that applies to your use. For other uses you need to obtain permission from the rights-holder(s) directly, unless additional rights are indicated by a Creative Commons license in the record and/ or on the work itself. This material has been accepted for inclusion by faculty at Illinois Wesleyan University. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@iwu.edu.

©Copyright is owned by the author of this document.

**RECITAL OF STUDENT COMPOSITIONS
FRIDAY, APRIL 14, 7-8:00 P.M., EVELYN CHAPEL**

"For Eric" by Sean Parsons

Dr. Carren Moham approached me late in the first semester with a project to compose a piece of music to be written for and dedicated to her close friend and accompanist, Eric Bowman. She presented me with the text, which had been written by another close friend of hers and of Eric's, Sean Walker. After some time of "living" with the text, I began to formulate ideas of how to set the text to music, eventually arriving with the piece that became "For Eric". At Dr. Moham's request, the music was to be set so that it fell into a voice range for herself, a mezzo soprano, and Eric, a tenor. It is to be performed by soprano with piano accompaniment, with both being equally important to the other in a musical sense.

"Prism" by Steve Winfield

This piece was for me an opportunity to express musically certain visual images. The title, which came about after the music was completed, was chosen because it fit those images most closely. The composition of this music presented a chance to explore some of the unique possibilities of writing for the string quartet, and in creating the textures and tone colors of this piece I chose to utilize several specific effects that can be produced on the instruments used. The music does not contain any real melody, but is instead made up of contrasting tone colors and a specific tonal language through which a continuous rhythmic motion is developed. This rhythmic motion stops only briefly between the first and second sections, of which the piece has three. The first introduces the colors, tonalities, and rhythmic drive that are found throughout the piece. The second continues the development of the rhythmic motion in a contrasting legato style. The final section continues the development of the musical material and brings the music to its climax, after which there is a short coda.

"Catharsis" by Phaidon Tsourkas

"Catharsis" is about creating rules and breaking them. The piece consists of three waves of sound. The first wave establishes a tonal center (C minor) and a pulse at the beginning, but it begins to call its own stability into question as the sound develops. The two following waves continue this trend until it is no longer possible for the established rules (as applied by the first wave) of rhythm and harmony to apply. The piece mirrors the scientific quest for knowledge since it is only by expanding our understanding beyond the rules that we've established that we can reach new levels of understanding.