

QI

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String Quartet #4: QI  
3 movements

by  
Evan Ziporyn

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# QI



String Quartet #4 by Evan Ziporyn

Total length @22'

-Lucid Flight (6')

-Garden (8'45")

-Transport (7')

Program notes by the composer:

The string quartet always makes me think in elemental terms - perhaps the combination of the repertoire, the instruments themselves, and the intense intimacy with which groups like Brooklyn Rider work together. So while many of my pieces have programmatic titles and/or narrative content, my string quartets tend to focus on forces of nature: water (*Eel Bone*), breath (*Breathing Space*), and now *qi*, the traditional Chinese character for life-force, a concept as ubiquitous and difficult to precisely define as analogous principles in all cultures and religions. Gaining awareness of and control over *qi* is a central, lifelong pursuit in many meditative and martial practices, including *tai chi* and *qi gong*. In my own experience, it seems that even in everyday life there are certain heightened states in which all of us become aware of *qi* flow - dreams of flying, repose with nature, and those rare moments in which intense engagement with something or someone allows us to briefly 'break on through to the other side.' The three movements of *Qi* - *Lucid Flight*, *Natural Light*, and *Transport* - are inspired by these moments.

*Qi* was commissioned by Mike Kong and Christine Bulawa and is dedicated to the members of Brooklyn Rider.

# Qi

1) Lucid Flight

Evan Ziporyn

High, Aethereal ♩ = 80

The first system of the musical score consists of four staves. The top staff is a vocal line with a dashed line above it and the marking *8va*. It contains four whole notes, each with a fermata, spanning across the four measures. The second staff is a vocal line with a sharp sign above the first note in the third measure. It contains two whole notes with fermatas in the third and fourth measures, marked *ppp*. The third staff is a piano accompaniment in 4/4 time, marked *mf*, featuring a complex rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes with accents. The fourth staff is a piano accompaniment in 4/4 time, marked *mf*, featuring a steady eighth-note accompaniment.

The second system of the musical score consists of four staves. The top staff is a vocal line marked *ff*, containing four whole notes with fermatas. The second staff is a vocal line marked *ff*, containing two whole notes with fermatas in the third and fourth measures. The third staff is a piano accompaniment in 4/4 time, marked *ff*, featuring a complex rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes with accents. The fourth staff is a piano accompaniment in 4/4 time, marked *ff*, featuring a steady eighth-note accompaniment. The number '5' is written above the first staff of this system.

9 *ppp* *ff* *ppp*

13 *ppp* *ff* *ppp* *8va*