

A Wild Innocence

for piano solo

Commissioned by 2011 Montreal International Musical Competition

“It takes fearlessness to create or perform .My creative process easily bogs down unless I find a way to free it from my curious and controlling mind. That’s what takes the fearlessness. I suppose really it’s finding the balance between control and freedom, finding that wild innocence that liberates both the creator or performer. Introspection is set aside, or perhaps absorbed into the subconscious to play its role more subtly.

I find great joy the moment I decide to jump over the cliff, abandoning myself to the discovery in freefall. It frees me psychologically but also physically. This is important to my approach because I see the performer as a dancer, whose choreography or embodiment of the work is ultimately essential to a convincing performance.

I think the job of a competition piece is to stimulate on several levels - technical, musical and emotional. It should make room for the performer to display a world of touches, from warm to brilliant; various qualities of energy, from light to driving; and a broad emotional palette. The challenge is to do this in a 5-minute piece.

The title came to me in the middle of the night and seemed at first bizarre. Now it feels like a perfect description both of how I like to compose and the state of mind of the eager young performer.”