

Program Notes: *Awakening of the Heart*

Awakening of the Heart was composed during a period of turmoil and loneliness. My longing for tenderness and intimacy and my hope for the future fill the piece, which I half-seriously thought of calling *Naked Music*- not in a sexual sense, but because it was so emotionally exposed. The hopes that sound in this composition were fulfilled several years later when I met Marie-Susanne, who I married and to whom this piece is dedicated.

Awakening of the Heart was commissioned by The Barlow Endowment for Music Composition at Brigham Young University, and was premiered in April 2006 by the New York New Music Ensemble. It has also been performed at the World Music Days festival in Hong Kong, the Utah Arts Festival, Ohio State University, and the University of Iowa.

- David Vayo