

Michael Smolens

COMPOSITIONS

2005

"Ze-Um Be Al-li-ah" (canon) for SATB vocal ensemble; premiered 8/20/05 at Studio Rasa (Berkeley) with MIRABAI ENSEMBLE vocalists Katy Stephen, Becca Burrington, Erin Fortes, Dara Roberts, Jeremy Fortes, David Thomas, David Earl, and Michael Smolens.

"From A Distance" (jazz waltz) for alto sax, vibes, piano, bass, and drum set; no performance to date.

2004

"The Alchemist's Dream" (rubato ballad) for male voice, two nylon-string guitars, tenor sax, percussion, and sampled environmental sounds; premiered 6/10/05 at the Musician's Union Hall (San Francisco) with earPlay Jazzquintet members Alex Murzyn, Michael Hatfield, Fred Randolph, Brian Rice, and Michael Smolens.

2002

"You Are The Sun In Drag" (accompanied poetry suite/text by Hafiz) for flute, two alto flutes, clarinet, bass clarinet, soprano sax, marimba, vibes, piano, fretless electric bass, acoustic bass, drum set, shakere, djun djuns, percussion, and reciter/stage magician; premiered 11/15/02 at Old First Concerts (San Francisco) with earPlay Jazzquintet members Gene Burkert, Mark Goldstein, Lukas Vesley, Brian Rice, Michael Smolens, and guest artist Heather Rogers.

"Rio Rescue" (samba) for accordion, flute, alto sax, high male voice, low male voice, marimba, vibes, guitar, pandeiro (Brazilian tambourine), fretless electric bass, and drum set; premiered 11/15/02 at Old First Concerts (San Francisco) with earPlay Jazzquintet members Gene Burkert, Mark Goldstein, Lukas Vesley, Brian Rice, and Michael Smolens.

"Germ-Line Genetics" (15-minute suite) for Mexican ehectls (clay whistles), voice, alto sax, bowed piano, West African shakere, djun djuns, and bells, Buchula Wands (MIDI controlled theremin-like mallets), and Marimba Lumina (mallet synthesizer); premiered 11/15/02 at Old First Concerts (San Francisco) with earPlay Jazzquintet members Gene Burkert, Mark Goldstein, Lukas Vesley, Brian Rice, and Michael Smolens.

2001

"Russelling And Bobbing" (jazz waltz) for flugelhorn, soprano sax, tenor sax, trombone, vibes, piano, bass, and drum set; premiered 9/11/02 at Yoshi's Jazz House (Oakland) with KRIYA Septet members Gene Burkert, Colin Wenhardt, Mike Olmos, Andrew Higgins, Alan Hall, and Michael Smolens.

2000

"Under Score" (ballad) for alto sax, bass, and piano; no performance to date.

"Tender Validation" (jazz waltz) for flugelhorn, flute, piano, bass, and drums; no performance to date.

1999

"Crossed Bows" (suite) for two African tone drums, flute, electric guitar, cello, and bass; premiered 8/21/99 at the Mendocino Community College Performing Arts Center with Joni Haastrup, Bob Affifi, Joel Harrison, Renata Bratt, George Cremaschi, and Michael Smolens.

"Balafon" (African/completed 2001) for West African balafon (marimba), vibes, soprano sax, bass, tablas, and drum set; preliminary arrangement premiered 8/29/99 at Coffee Catz (Sebastopol) with earPlay Jazztrio members Hal Forman, Alan Hall, and Michael Smolens.

1998

"Capacity For Intensity" (based on a theme by Alan Tower) for violin, two violas, and cello; no performances to date, only for the "10,000 Thunderstorms" recording.

"Intrauterine Cannibals" (based on a theme by Alan Tower) for piano and kontrabasharpa (Swedish violin with two melody strings, one drone string, and 12 sympathetic strings); premiered 6/4/02 at Clarion Music Series (San Francisco) Michael Smolens and Barry Hall.

1997

"Essentions" (bossa/double-time Latin/revised 2001) for flute, soprano sax, trumpet, tenor sax, trombone, voice, piano, fretless electric bass, drum set, percussion; premiered 9/11/02 at Yoshi's Jazz House (Oakland) with KRIYA Septet members Gene Burkert, Colin Wenhardt, Mike Olmos, Andrew Higgins, Alan Hall, and Michael Smolens.

"When Sky Was Evergreen" (ballad/revised 1999) for tenor sax and piano; original version premiered 5/4/97 at the Mendocino Community College Performing Arts Center with Sheldon Brown and Michael Smolens.

"Jaco" (double-time funk/African) for solo male voice and percussionist; premiered 8/3/97 at Mills College Orff Teaching Conference (Oakland) with Michael Smolens and Doug Goodkin.

1996

"Criss Cross" (swing) for male solo vocalist, female solo vocalist, bass, and drum set; premiered 8/21/99 at the Mendocino Community College Performing Arts Center with Rhiannon, Russ Gold, George Cremanchi, and Michael Smolens.

"When Autumn Turned" (ballad) for solo female vocalist, alto flute, cello, and piano; same venue and date with Rhiannon, Bob Affifi, Renata Bratt, and Michael Smolens.

"Rasa And Her Moods" (raga fusion) for voice, tenor sax, harmonium, synthesizers, piano, fretted electric bass, tablas, and drum set; premiered 11/15/98 at Open Secret Bookstore (San Rafael) with MIRABAI ENSEMBLE instrumentalists Hal Forman, Eric Golub, Girish Gambhira, Alan Hall, Michael Wilcox, and Michael Smolens.

"10/4" (African) for eight vocalists and one conductor/percussionist; premiered 6/7/96 at Annie's Hall (Berkeley) with MIRABAI ENSEMBLE vocalists David Babich, Tamsen Fynn, James Owen, Suzanne Pittson, Tina Reeves, Pamela Thiel, Roy Turpin, Sonia Whitney, and Michael Smolens.

1995

"Air India" (raga style) for nine vocalists SATB, tabla, and tambura; premiered 6/7/96 at Annie's Hall (Berkeley) with MIRABAI ENSEMBLE vocalists David Babich, Tamsen Fynn, James Owen, Suzanne Pittson, Tina Reeves, Pamela Thiel, Roy Turpin, Sonia Whitney, Michael Smolens plus Russ Gold (tabla).

"Remembering" (theatre based) for seven vocalists and piano; same venue, date, and personnel.

"Storytelling" (theatre based) for three vocalists; same venue, date, and personnel.

"Tuning Choral" (waltz) for SSATB vocal ensemble and solo cello; no performance to date.

1994

"Sweet As The Breath Of Eden" (20-minute gospel suite/completed 1996) for nine vocalists SSATB, trumpet, electric violin, cello, fretted electric bass, electric guitar, piano, synthesizer, drum set, and percussion; complete suite premiered 11/6/98 at Open Secret Bookstore (San Rafael) with MIRABAI members Carri Abrahms, Becca Burrington, Hal Forman, Jeremy Fortes, Girish Gambhira, Eric Golub, Alan Hall, Joni Hastrup, Jessica Ivry, Erin Kupferman, Rob Penn, Marc Steiner, and Michael Smolens.

"Password, Passport" (Arabic) for solo soprano, vielle, and dumbek in C; premiered 7/21/94 at the San Francisco Early Music Workshop with Shira Kammen (vielle), Cheryl Myers (voice), and Michael Smolens (dumbek).

1993

- "Flight From The Self"** (pattern) for SAATTB choir, solo soprano voice, four percussionists, violin, cello, bass, and synthesizer; premiered 6/7/96 at Annie's Hall (Berkeley) with MIRABAI ENSEMBLE vocalists David Babich, Tamsen Fynn, James Owen, Suzanne Pittson, Tina Reeves, Pamela Thiel, Roy Turpin, Sonia Whitney, and Michael Smolens plus instrumentalists George Cremaschi, Hal Forman, Russ Gold, Nori Kishi, Yehudit Lieberman, and Marc Steiner.
- "The Rooster's Call"** (swing/text by Marcy Telles) for SSAATB choir, solo tenor voice, harmonica, piano, bass, and drum set; 5/93 at St. Ignacious Church (Petaluma) with the Occidental Community Choir, Steven Abbott tenor soloist.
- "Wedding Lullaby"** (ballad) for soprano sax and electric piano; premiered 11/5/99 at the Oberlin Dance Collective Theatre with Sheldon Brown and Michael Smolens.
- "The Golden Shell"** (pattern) for solo piano; no performance to date.
- "Rosefire"** (pattern) for solo piano; no performance to date.

1992

- "Border Signs"** (jazz march) for trumpet, soprano sax, tenor sax, piano, bass, and drum set; premiered 6/28/92 at Yoshi's Jazz House with KRIYA Sextet members Eric Crystal, Dave Tidball, Hal Forman, Michael Wilcox, Elliot Kavee, and Michael Smolens.
- "Corinthian Vase"** (ballad) for alto sax, tenor sax, two trumpets, trombone, vibes, piano, bass, drum set, and percussion; same venue, date, and personnel.

1991

- "Takes All The Running"** (swing/text by Marcy Telles) for SATB choir and tenor soloist; premiered 5/93 at St. Ignacious Church (Petaluma) with the Occidental Community Choir, Michael Smolens tenor soloist.
- "Through Nora's Eyes"** (jazz waltz) for soprano sax and piano; premiered 9/15/91 at Yoshi's Jazz House with Hal Forman and Michael Smolens.

1990

- "Lavalava"** (20-minute West African suite/completed 2003) for male voice, piccolo, flute, alto flute, two bass clarinets, soprano sax, tenor sax, trumpet, trombone, 'balafo' (marimba), piano, fretless electric bass, acoustic bass, drum set, and percussion; complete suite premiered 3/1/04 at Yoshi's Jazz House with KRIYA Octet members Gene Burkert, Colin Wenhardt, Mike Olmos, Joel Behrman, Alan Hall, Lukas Vesley, Alan Hall, Julian Gerstin, and Michael Smolens.
- "Stop To Reflect"** (gospel/text by Marcy Telles) for SSAATB choir, piano, bass, and drum set; premiered 5/92 at St. Ignacious Church (Petaluma) with the Occidental Community Choir.
- "The Last Rendezvous"** (6/8 swing) for female voice, flute, alto flute, trumpet, bassoon, guitar, bass, tabla, and percussion; preliminary arrangement premiered 2/91 at Concepts Cultural Gallery (Oakland) Sheldon Brown, Biaja Soloman, Dana Pandey, Michael Smolens
- "Sweet Pepper"** (samba/revised 2002) for flute, alto sax, two flugelhorn, piano, fretless electric bass, drum set, and percussion; revised version premiered 6/9/02 at The Jazz House (Berkeley) with KRIYA Septet members Gene Burkert, Colin Wenhardt, Mike Olmos, Andrew Higgins, Alan Hall, and Michael Smolens.
- "Wind In Time"** (ballad/completed 2002) for soprano sax, bass clarinet, vibes, piano, acoustic bass, and percussion; complete arrangement premiered 10/25/02 at Point Reyes Dance Palace with earPlay Jazzquintet members Gene Burkert, Mark Goldstein, Lukas Vesley, Brian Rice, and Michael Smolens.

"His First Words" (ballad) for piano solo; no performances to date, only for "The Last Rendezvous" recording.
"Lunar Magic" (pattern) for piano solo; premiered 6/26/88 at a House Concert (Berkeley) Michael Smolens.

Michael Smolens

page 4

1989

"The Girl With The Whole Step" (Latin funk/swing) for alto sax, tenor sax, trumpet, trombone, piano, bass, and drum set; premiered 8/11/89 at the Kuumbwa Jazz Center (Santa Cruz) with KRIYA Sextet members Sheldon Brown, Peck Almond, Lenny Ott, Jim Kerwin, Glen Cronkite, and Michael Smolens.

1988

"The Blue Cymbal" (swing) for two trumpets, alto flute, tenor sax, trombone, vibes, piano, bass, and drum set; premiered 6/26/88 at a House Concert (Berkeley) with KRIYA Quartet members Sheldon Brown, Bill Douglass, Kenny Wollinson, and Michael Smolens.

"Jade" (ballad/with Leslie Linde) for flute and piano; 9/88 at the Monclair Community Center (Oakland) with Leslie Linde and Michael Smolens.

1987

"Hommage a Gismonti" (fast samba/ revised 2000) for soprano sax, voice, piano, fretless electric bass, and drum set; original arrangement premiered 6/26/88 at a House Concert (Berkeley) with KRIYA Quartet members Sheldon Brown, Bill Douglass, Kenny Wollinson, and Michael Smolens.

1986

"Norwegian Web" (even-eighths) for tenor sax, flugelhorn, piano, bass, drum set, and percussion; premiered 6/26/88 at a House Concert (Berkeley) with KRIYA Quartet members Sheldon Brown, Bill Douglass, Kenny Wollinson, and Michael Smolens.

1985

"Tara's Secret" (pattern/ revised 1991) for solo alto voice, alto vocal quartet, cello, and two pianos; no performance to date, only for "The Last Rendezvous" recording.

1984

"Summer Highlands" (West African feel) for flute, trumpet, tenor sax, trombone, balafon, talking drum, djun djuns, percussion, fretless electric bass, and drum set; preliminary arrangement premiered 3/85 at College Five (UCSC) with KRIYA Quintet members Sheldon Brown, Hekki Koskinen, Clarke Supyranowitz, Mark Brandt, and Michael Smolens.

"Mascara Snake" (double-time Latin/funk) for alto sax, trumpet, piano, bass, and drum set; premiered 6/13/87 at Kimball's West (San Francisco) with KRIYA Quintet members Sheldon Brown, Peck Almond, Jim Kerwin, Elliot Kavee, and Michael Smolens.

"The Arrival" (Latin) for soprano sax, flugelhorn, piano, bass, and drum set; premiered 9/15/91 at Yoshi's Jazz House with KRIYA Quintet members Sheldon Brown, Hal Forman, Michael Wilcox, and Michael Smolens.

"A Mikan Waltz" (jazz waltz) for tenor sax, flugelhorn, piano, bass, and drum set; premiered 6/28/90 at Yoshi's Jazz House KRIYA Quartet members Dave Tidball, Michael Wilcox, Elliot Kavee, and Michael Smolens.

"Chillum In Bloom" (ballad) for soprano sax and piano; premiered 6/26/88 at a House Concert (Berkeley) with Sheldon Brown and Michael Smolens.

"Lullaby For M." (ballad) for flute, vibes, and piano; duo version premiered 8/11/89 at the Kuumbwa Jazz Center (Santa Cruz) with Sheldon Brown and Michael Smolens.

"R.C. II" (pattern/revised 1991) for three female voices, one male voice, Eb clarinet, bass clarinet, soprano sax, alto sax, tenor sax, piccolo trumpet, trumpet in G, cello, electric guitar, soprano steel pan, percussion, and synthesizers; premiered 11/6/98 at the Open Secret Bookstore (San Rafael) with MIRABAI ENSEMBLE members Carri Abrahms, Becca Burrington, Hal Forman, Jeremy Fortes, Girish Gambhira,

Michael Smolens

page 4

Eric Golub, Alan Hall, Joni Haastrup, Jessica Ivry, Erin Kupferman, Rob Penn, Marc Steiner, and Michael Smolens.

"Inside You" (pattern/completed 1991) for solo soprano voice, flute, oboe, English horn, clarinet, bass clarinet and piano; trio arrangement premiered 6/2/90 at a House Concert (Berkeley) with Sheldon Brown, Biaja Soloman, and Michael Smolens.

1983

"Woodlands" (even-eighth) for tenor sax, trumpet, piano, bass, and drum set; no performance to date.

"Six To Five" (fast modal swing) for trumpet, two trombones, alto sax, tenor sax, piano, bass, drum set, and percussion; premiered 4/2/84 at New College Performance Gallery (San Francisco) with KRIYA Sextet members Sheldon Brown, Hekki Koskinen, Clarke Supryanowitz, Mark Brandt, Bob Hoesch, and Michael Smolens.

"The Great Meridian" (suite) for three conch shells, flute, muted trumpet, tenor sax, arco bass, and drum set; same venue, date, and personnel.

1982

"The Island That Wept" (even-eighths/revised 2001) for flugelhorn, trumpet, alto flute, alto sax, tenor sax, trombone, bass clarinet, fretless electric bass, acoustic bass, drum set, and percussion; revised version premiered at Yoshi's Jazz House with KRIYA Septet members Gene Burkert, Colin Wenhardt, Mike Olmos, Andrew Higgins, Alan Hall, Julian Gerstin, and Michael Smolens.

"Blue 440" (10-minute suite) for alto sax, flugelhorn, piano, bass, and drum set; premiered 4/2/84 at New College Performance Gallery (San Francisco) with KRIYA Sextet members Sheldon Brown, Hekki Koskinen, Clarke Supryanowitz, Mark Brandt, Bob Hoesch, and Michael Smolens.

"Tuning Glass" (pattern/orchestrated 2003) for full orchestra; chamber version premiered at same venue, date, and personnel.

1981

"Soft Coil" (ambient) for piano solo; premiered 3/3/81 at a House Concert (San Francisco) Michael Smolens.

"Waiting" (ambient) for piano solo; same.

1980

"Evergreen" (ballad) for tenor sax, piano, bass, and drum set; premiered 4/2/84 at New College Performance Gallery (San Francisco) with KRIYA Quintet members Sheldon Brown, Clarke Supryanowitz, Mark Brandt, and Michael Smolens.

"For Christina" (jazz waltz) for alto sax, piano, bass, and drum set; solo piano version premiered 3/3/81 at a House Concert (San Francisco) with Michael Smolens.

"To Them" (jazz waltz) for alto sax, piano, bass, and drum set; same.

(Following pieces works premiered May of 1977 and June of 1978 for the Junior and Senior Recitals at UC Santa Cruz by the composer, community residents, and students of the Jazz Department--Randy Masters, Chair).

1979

"**King Tut**" (swing) for two tenor saxes, trumpet, piano, bass, and drum set.

"**Mylectra**" (rock feel) for electric guitar, electric piano, electric bass, and drum set.

Michael Smolens

page 5

1978

"**L'Infinito**" (rock feel) for electric violin, electric guitar, electric piano, electric bass, and drum set.

"**Modus**" (fast modal swing) for tenor sax, trumpet, piano, bass, and drum set.

"**Through The Wind**" (ballad) for soprano sax and piano.

"**As Eachother**" (ballad) for flute and piano.

1976

"**The Cool Creole**" (Latin funk) for flute, flugelhorn, piano, fretted electric bass, drum set, and percussion.

"**Linear Vision**" (rock feel) for electric guitar, electric piano, fretted electric bass, and drum set.

"**Lemon Cakewalk**" (funk feel) for tenor sax, electric guitar, electric piano, fretted electric bass, and drum set.

"**Folded Horn**" (rock feel) for electric violin, electric guitar, electric piano, electric bass, and drum set.

"**Centering**" (ballad) for soprano sax and piano.

1975

"**In Memory Of Ray**" (15-minute suite) for muted trumpet, flute, electric guitar, electric piano, fretted electric bass, acoustic bass, drum set and percussion.

"**Winter Song**" (ballad) for flugelhorn and piano.

"**The Unmoved Mover**" (rock feel) for electric guitar, electric piano, fretless electric bass, and drum set.

1970

"**Tommy At The Movies**" (fast jazz waltz) for muted trumpet, flute, piano, bass, and drum set.

Forthcoming Recordings of Original Compositions

Michael Smolens Octet KRIYA: "**Essentions**" featuring vibist Stefon Harris
(completed/pre-master)

Michael Smolens and the earPlay Jazzquintet: "**Rasa And Her Moods**"
(completed/pre-master)

Recordings of Original Compositions

Michael Smolens: "**Instructional Series: Volume I**" (2005)

Gene Berkert: "**The Jazz Palette**" (recorded 2004, pressed 2006)

Michael Smolens Septet KRIYA: "**Live At Yoshi's**" (recorded 9/11/02, pressed 2003)

Michael Smolens/Sheldon Brown Duo: "**Live Volume I - Limbo Eruption**"
(recorded 1999-2000, pressed 2003)

Michael Smolens/Sheldon Brown Duo: "**Live Volume II - Hip Abduction**"
(recorded 1999-2000, pressed 2003)

Michael Smolens/Sheldon Brown Duo: "**Live Volume III - Astringent Assumption**"
(recorded 1999-2000, pressed 2003)

Alan Tower: "**10,000 Thunderstorms**" (recorded 1999, pressed 2001)
Michael Smolens/Sheldon Brown Duo: "**Train To Tourmaline**" (recorded 1997, pressed 1998)
Occidental Community Choir: "**Stay Tuned--The Home Radio Hour**" (1993)
Occidental Community Choir: "**Curiouser And Curiouser: Reflections On Alice**" (1992)
Michael Smolens: "**The Last Rendezvous**" (chamber/recorded 1992, pressed 1998)