

## CRYSTAL BUTTERFLY

In the spring of 2001, my brother visited me and we went on a walk in the woods. Being the avid photographer that he is, Tom was stopping for pictures with every step. He paused, slowly motioned toward a leaf on which the most radiant silver-blue butterfly had perched, and quickly snapped a shot. The butterfly gracefully and effortlessly few away, glistening with every turn in the light-filled sky. I was mesmerized for the rest of our visit at what a beautiful moment he had been able to capture in what seemed like on effortless action and I recognized that in many ways his study of photography ran parallel to my study of music. So I set out to capture in sound what it was that Tom saw in that butterfly – the beauty of flight summed into one brilliant, joyful moment.

When considering the flight pattern of a butterfly, the result is this piece written in a “stream-of-consciousness” fashion, with a constant flow, but incorporating sophisticated rhythms and gradually shifting harmonies to reflect the playful nature of flight. There is a significant amount of planning (moving a chord up or down a scale) in sections to achieve the brilliant quality that this action entails. Moreover, the inclusion of the term “crystal” in the title is to reflect the angular, digital element combined with the acoustic medium of marimba for this piece.

While *Crystal Butterfly* is in honor of my family, whom have introduced me to so many beautiful things in life – e.g. a butterfly on a spring day – it is dedicated to Mrs. Julie Spencer, for steering me in the direction of Inner Game Theory and the benefits of Relaxed Concentration.

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