Tibetan Dance **(2000)**   **Bright Sheng**

"*Tibetan Dance* was written in October, 2000. The work was commissioned by Michigan State University and the Phillips Collection, Washington, D.C. for the Verdehr Trio, to whom the work is also dedicated.

The work is anchored on the last movement, the longest of the three. The first two movements are reminiscent, as if one is hearing songs from a distant memory. And the music becomes real in the last movement. Its material is based on the rhythm and melodic motive of a Tibetan folk dance from Qinghai, a Chinese province by the border of Tibet, where I lived during my teenage years."

—Bright Sheng

The world premiere of *Tibetan Dance* was on March 4, 2001 in the Music Room, The Phillips Collection, Washington, D.C.

Bright Sheng (born 1955, Shanghai, China) started piano studies with his mother at the age of four. After graduating from high school during the Cultural Revolution, he was one of the first students accepted by the Shanghai Conservatory of Music where he earned his undergraduate degree in music composition. In 1982, he moved to New York, earning a Master of Arts degree at Queens College, CUNY and a doctorate at Columbia University. His main teachers were Chou Wen-Chung, Jack Beeson, Mario Davidovsky, George Perle, and Hugo Weisgall. As a student at the Tanglewood Music Center in 1985, he met Leonard Bernstein who later became his mentor. He studied composition and conducting with Bernstein until Bernstein's death in 1990.

From 1989–1992, Sheng was Composer-in Residence at the Lyric Opera of Chicago and from 2006–2008 he was the first Composer-in-Residence for the New York City Ballet. He held other residencies with the Seattle Symphony Orchestra, the Tanglewood Music Center, the Washington Performing Arts Society, the Mannes College of Music, and the Atlantic Center for the Arts. During the summers, he has had residencies with La Jolla Chamber Music Summerfest, the Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival, the Bowdoin International Summer Festival, and the Brevard Music Center.

Sheng received a number of prizes in China from the Chamber Music Composition and Art Song Competition. In the United States he has received awards from the Naumburg, Guggenheim, Rockefeller, Jerome and MacArthur Foundations; the Mary Flagler Cary Charitable Trust, and the Illinois Council on the Arts. He has held three fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts. He was awarded a Charles Ives Scholarship, and later, the American Award in Music from the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters. ASCAP honored him with an Achievement Award.

Sheng's music has been performed to great critical response by major ensembles around the world. He has received commissions and performances from the Los Angeles Philharmonic; the Copenhagen Philharmonic; the symphony orchestras of Boston, Dallas, Detroit, Houston, Philadelphia, Seattle, and Shanghai; the Tanglewood Music Center; the Orchestra sinfonica dell'Accademia Nazionale de Santa Cecilia; and the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center. His music has been presented by such artists as Leonard Bernstein, Peter Serkin, Yo-Yo Ma, Emanuel Ax, Cho-Liang Lin, Gerard Schwarz, David Zinman, John Oliver, Kenneth Jean, Jahja Ling, and Hugh Wolff.

Sheng has been teaching composition at the University of Michigan since 1995 where he is the Leonard Bernstein Distinguished Professor of Music. In 2011, he founded The Intimacy of Creativity–The Bright Sheng Partnership: Composers Meet Performers, an annual two-week workshop in Hong Kong which focuses on new approaches to creativity under his leadership as

Artistic Director. Sheng also maintains an active career as a conductor and concert pianist, appearing with some of the world's most important orchestras in many of the world's most prestigious music centers and institutions.

Sheng's music is published exclusively by G. Schirmer and has been recorded on the Sony Classical, BIS, Delos, Koch International, New World, Telarc, and Naxos labels.

Additional information about Sheng is available at www.brightsheng.com.