

Mantra



for Chamber Ensemble

Kirk O'Riordan

Mantra (2011)

Kirk O'Riordan (b. 1968)

Program Notes:

A **mantra** (from Sanskrit: *man-* "to think" and *-tra* meaning, tool) literally means "instrument of thought." Originating in ancient [India](#) out of [Vedic Hinduism](#), mantras serve a variety of functions and are especially popular as aids to meditation and devotion. As powerful sound vibrations, mantras encompass various forms of sacred utterance (syllable, scriptural verse, or sacred formula), which can be repeated silently or chanted for different purposes such as instilling concentration, facilitating spiritual growth, and helping to visualize a deity. It is said that a mantra, when recited with proper understanding and intonation, can revitalize the mind with mystic power and help deliver it from [illusion](#) to enlightenment. Mantras have also been used in religious ceremonies to accumulate wealth, avoid danger, or even allegedly to eliminate foes.

(from the New World Encyclopedia)

Instrumentation:

Flute

Clarinet in B-flat

2 Violins

Viola

Violoncello

Piano

Percussion:

3 Players

1. Crotales
2. Vibraphone
3. Percussion: Triangle(s), Finger Cymbals, Suspended Cymbals and/or similar instruments. Play the rhythm indicated, changing instruments *ad libitum*. Avoid using the same instrument on consecutive attacks.