

## The Rite of Spring, arranged for woodwind quintet

This woodwind quintet arrangement of selections from Igor Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring* was originally commissioned by the San Francisco Symphony's Keeping Score educational outreach program for performance in their workshops about the *Rite*. The idea was to take Stravinsky's 35 minute work for a huge orchestra and condense it into a 10 to 12 minute piece for woodwind quintet, capturing the essence of the work and highlighting the ingenious ways in which Stravinsky uses woodwind instruments. In the summer of 2010, Imani Winds commissioned me to expand the arrangement by another 8 minutes. It was a daunting task to reduce this huge orchestral work for only five single line instruments, especially considering that some of the work's most distinctive features are its thick harmonies, multiple layers of activity, and variety of orchestral color – all aspects that do not easily lend themselves to reduction. But it was also a thrilling opportunity to delve into this monumental piece, to figure out how it works, and how I could condense and re-imagine it without losing its fundamental qualities. Though often agonizing, it was also profoundly stimulating to try to get inside the mind and ear of Stravinsky, to try to imagine what he imagined, and to translate his vision into another medium.