

## Cort Lippe

### Program Notes

*Music for Octet and Computer* (2012) was commissioned by the University of Wisconsin, River Falls, for the 46th Annual Commissioned Composer Project, and premiered at River Falls in William Abbott Concert Hall in April of 2012, conducted by Patti Cudd. The piece is for four trombones and four percussionists, and is in four movements. Most creation myths from around the world are very surrealistic, complicated and colorful, with practically hallucinatory or dream-like descriptions involving nature and animals in fascinating juxtapositions. On the contrary, the description of creation in *Genesis* is quite minimal, bare and simple. The first movement of *Octet* is based on a time-stretched reading of the first day of creation from *Genesis (King James Version)*, and makes loose use of speech rhythms and vowel/consonant juxtapositions from the text. The second movement, based on the second day of creation where a division into 3 parts (water divided by the sky) is a trio for vibraphone, marimba and computer. The third movement is scherzo-like with extremes of dynamics and rhythmic irregularities and is based on the third day of creation. And the fourth movement is loosely based on the text of the fourth and fifth days of creation from *Genesis*, drawing harmonic material from the formants of 11 major vowel sounds found in Standard American English (as appearing in the text), as well as speech fricatives and their unique spectral content.

The computer part makes use of spectral processing, including cross synthesis, spectral snapshots, spectral filtering, delay, feedback, ordering, and spatialization, and was developed using Max/MSP. *Music for Octet and Computer* is dedicated to Lena.