

**Program Note:**

*World of Beauty (b)* is the second in a cycle of four pieces (+ epilogue) that, when complete, will consist of just over an hour of music; moving from a piano quartet, to a piano trio, a duet for cello and violin and a piece for solo violin. The epilogue will be a short piece for the opening instrumentation, played offstage. *World of Beauty (b)* is the first piece of the cycle to be completed. Its composition was funded by a grant from Komponistenes Vederlagsforbund (Norway).

The cycle stands out from my output so far as a composer. It differs from most of what I have written, both in terms of material and structure. The material is loosely defined, based on a series of motifs, gestures and impulses. The structure is equally loosely formed, creating the effect of a continuously introspective mental landscape.

The idea behind the compositional process was to take my time; to allow the material to speak clearly and freely, and in its own time. As a composer it is common to make the material speak to your conceptual purpose; however, occasionally, you come across material that speaks for itself. *World of Beauty* is one of the rare cases of the latter. It is inspired by the following quotation from H.P. Lovecraft:

*Thereafter I heard Zann every night, and although he kept me awake,*

*I was haunted by the weirdness of his music...*

*Evidently Erich Zann's world of beauty lay in some far cosmos of the imagination.*

H. P. Lovecraft - The Music of Erich Zann