

# Allen Shawn



## **Fantasy** (2011)

Length: approx. 13 minutes

World Premiere by ZOFO: 1/25/2013, Old First Concerts, San Francisco, California

Made possible through the generous support of private ZOFO donors

**PERFORMANCE VIDEO**, [here](#)  
(Allen Shawn and Yoshiko Sato, pianists)

## **Notes from the composer** about *Fantasy*:

"I was stimulated by the extraordinary artistry and rapport of the ZOFO duo to think of the four-hand medium as chamber music for two players who just happen to be seated at the same instrument. "Fantasy" conjures up a dreamspace in which echoes of various kinds of four hand music come to the surface. Slow spacious chords give way to melodic phrases vaguely suggestive of Schumann and Mahler, which in turn lead to animated music that is alternately brusque, playful, sardonic and aggressive. The slow tempo returns, with transformations of earlier ideas. The music is on the border of the tonal and non-tonal."

## **Reviews**

[NEW MUSIC BOX](#)

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**For a copy of the score** please email Allen Shawn: [ashawn@bennington.edu](mailto:ashawn@bennington.edu)

## **Allen Shawn**

Allen Shawn (born 1948) grew up in New York City. He started composing at the age of ten, eventually studying with Nadia Boulanger in Paris, and with Leon Kirchner at Harvard University. Since 1985, he has been on the music faculty of Bennington College in Vermont, USA. Shawn's musical output comprises a dozen orchestral works and concertos; three chamber operas; a large catalogue of chamber music; songs, choral music, piano music, and music for ballet and theater. Recent premieres include his Violin Concerto (2009) performed by violinist Juliana Athayde and the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, a Rhapsody for violin and piano (2010), and his Piano Sonata No. 4 (2010), performed by German pianist, Julia Bartha. His recordings include three volumes of piano music; a dozen chamber works; the chamber opera "The Music Teacher"; and his piano concerto, performed by Ursula Oppens and the Albany Symphony. Shawn is also the author of three books, "Arnold Schoenberg's Journey" (2002), "Wish I Could Be There" (2007), and "Twin" (2011), and he is currently working on a book about Leonard Bernstein for Yale University Press.

Source: [Wikipedia](#)