

# Spherical

for piano solo  
with optional narration

2009

(ca. 8:00)

Christopher Gainey (b. 1981)

poetry by Alan Felsenthal

to:

Victoria Tsangari

special thanks to:

Patrick Fitzgibbon, David Gompper,  
Bruno Amato, Thomas Benjamin,  
and Ray Chester

**For more information, please visit:**

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## **Spherical**

When dull I write until  
my life becomes a rose  
window looking out  
at the treeless yard.

I imagine a sphere  
cut out of firmament  
where you are  
a flickering tremor.

Radiance uprooted,  
ripe I have grown  
for excision from  
this barren monastery.

Show me my face  
wet with hallelujahs.  
Please tell me no  
surgery is senseless.

Prickly stems outside  
display dissolving cells.  
The local ether clamps  
in my ventilated room.

I want you coming to  
remove this mask.  
I am asking again  
for the anaesthetic.

- *Alan Felsenthal* (2008)

### **Performance Notes:**

1. The poetry is broken up in the score as it should be read in performance. Any boxed text is to be read aloud by the narrator (if a narrator is used). The arrow extending from the box shows the approximate place in the music at which the reading should begin.
2. The narrator (if a narrator is used) should be amplified for any performance of this piece.
3. The narrator (if a narrator is used) should give a highly stylized reading of the text, responding to the emotions implicit in both the words and the music.
4. The sustain pedal should be used throughout this piece. The symbol (\*) shows where the performer should change the pedal.
5. If the poetry is to be read in performance, it may be read by either a separate narrator or by the pianist, if he or she is so inclined.

to Victoria Tsangari

# Spherical

Christopher Gainey (2009)

Text by Alan Felsenthal

$\text{♩} = 84$

Piano

Measures 1-4 of the piano score. The piece is in 3/4 time. Measure 1: Treble clef has a half note chord (F4, A4, C5) with *mf* dynamic; Bass clef has a half note chord (F3, A3, C4) with *mf* dynamic. Measure 2: Treble clef has a half note chord (F4, A4, C5) with *p* dynamic, followed by a triplet of eighth notes (G4, A4, B4) with *mp* dynamic; Bass clef has a half note chord (F3, A3, C4) with *p* dynamic. Measure 3: Treble clef has a half note chord (F4, A4, C5) with *pp* dynamic; Bass clef has a half note chord (F3, A3, C4) with *pp* dynamic. Measure 4: Treble clef has a half note chord (F4, A4, C5) with *pp* dynamic; Bass clef has a half note chord (F3, A3, C4) with *pp* dynamic. Dynamics: *mf*, *p*, *mp*, *pp*. Performance instructions: *l.v.* (first ledger line) above the treble staff and below the bass staff in measures 2 and 3. *Ped. sempre* is written below the bass staff in measure 1.

$\leftarrow \text{♩} = \text{♩} \rightarrow$

5

Measures 5-8 of the piano score. Measure 5: Treble clef has a half note chord (F4, A4, C5) with *p* dynamic, followed by a triplet of eighth notes (G4, A4, B4) with *mp* dynamic; Bass clef has a half note chord (F3, A3, C4) with *p* dynamic. Measure 6: Treble clef has a half note chord (F4, A4, C5) with *mp* dynamic; Bass clef has a half note chord (F3, A3, C4) with *mp* dynamic. Measure 7: Treble clef has a half note chord (F4, A4, C5) with *mp* dynamic; Bass clef has a half note chord (F3, A3, C4) with *mp* dynamic. Measure 8: Treble clef has a half note chord (F4, A4, C5) with *mp* dynamic; Bass clef has a half note chord (F3, A3, C4) with *mp* dynamic. Dynamics: *p*, *mp*. Performance instructions: *l.v.* (first ledger line) above the treble staff and below the bass staff in measures 5, 6, and 7.

9

Measures 9-12 of the piano score. Measure 9: Treble clef has a half note chord (F4, A4, C5) with *mf* dynamic; Bass clef has a half note chord (F3, A3, C4) with *mf* dynamic. Measure 10: Treble clef has a half note chord (F4, A4, C5) with *f* dynamic; Bass clef has a half note chord (F3, A3, C4) with *f* dynamic. Measure 11: Treble clef has a half note chord (F4, A4, C5) with *f* dynamic; Bass clef has a half note chord (F3, A3, C4) with *f* dynamic. Measure 12: Treble clef has a half note chord (F4, A4, C5) with *f* dynamic; Bass clef has a half note chord (F3, A3, C4) with *f* dynamic. Dynamics: *mf*, *f*. Performance instructions: *l.v.* (first ledger line) above the treble staff and below the bass staff in measures 9, 10, 11, and 12.

13

Measures 13-16 of the piano score. Measure 13: Treble clef has a half note chord (F4, A4, C5) with *mp* dynamic; Bass clef has a half note chord (F3, A3, C4) with *mp* dynamic. Measure 14: Treble clef has a half note chord (F4, A4, C5) with *mf* dynamic; Bass clef has a half note chord (F3, A3, C4) with *mf* dynamic. Measure 15: Treble clef has a half note chord (F4, A4, C5) with *mf* dynamic; Bass clef has a half note chord (F3, A3, C4) with *mf* dynamic. Measure 16: Treble clef has a half note chord (F4, A4, C5) with *mf* dynamic; Bass clef has a half note chord (F3, A3, C4) with *mf* dynamic. Dynamics: *mp*, *mf*. Performance instructions: *l.v.* (first ledger line) above the treble staff and below the bass staff in measures 13, 14, 15, and 16.

17

*pp*  
*pp*  
*mp*

21

*f*  
*mf*  
*f*  
*mp*  
l.v.  
l.v.  
l.v.  
l.v.

25

*mf*  
*mp*  
*mp*  
l.v.  
l.v.  
l.v.  
l.v.

*rit.* . . . . .

29

*mp*  
l.v.  
l.v.

33

*p*

*p*

*l.v.*

*l.v.*

$\text{♩} = 100$

36

*mp*

*mp*

*l.v.*

*l.v.*

\*

**When dull I write ...** \*\*

**until my life becomes a rose window ...**

39

*pp* — *mp*

*mf* — *p*

*l.v.*

*l.v.*

*l.v.*

*l.v.*

**looking out at the treeless yard.**

$\text{♩} = 72$

43

*pp*

*pp*

*mp*

*mp*

\*

\*

\*

\*\* The narrator should read any boxed text aloud. The arrow shows the approximate place in the music at which the reading should begin