

# NIRMALI FENN

## THE CLASH OF ICICLES AGAINST THE STARS



The premise underlying *The Clash of Icicles against the Stars* is the Chinese concept of *qi*. *Qi* means ‘breath’, ‘air’ or ‘gas’ and signifies the energy flow or life force that is the fundamental sustaining element of existence. The piece explores the various air chambers of each instrument, with the accordion compressing and expanding its chamber to manufacture sound, while the *sheng*, the oldest wind instrument

in China and the ancestor of the accordion, uses reed vibration in contrast to the reedless flute, whose embouchure hole provides the basis for timbral experimentation.

*The I Ching* provides a symmetrical structural base, while Rimbaud’s poem ‘Barbarian’, with its highly emotional imagery, evokes the spatial range and temporal pace of *The Clash of Icicles against the Stars*.

Nirmali Fenn (\*1979)  
*The Clash of Icicles against the Stars*  
HH320.FSP  
iv/9 + 3x12 pages

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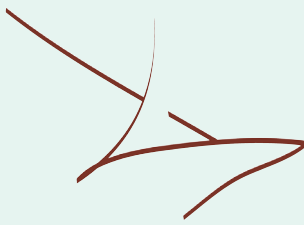
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## THE CLASH OF ICICLES AGAINST THE STARS

NIRMALI FENN  
(\*1979)

**Larghetto, sostenuto** 30" 1'00"

Accordion

Picc. *breath all th. with vln. sostenuto*

Flute

Sberg.