

# Timothy Roy

Artistic Statement

It is not uncommon to hear a composer, in an attempt to demystify his or her individual creative process, draw comparisons with other artistic fields. Analogies to painting, architecture, and the culinary arts abound, to name a few. By contrast, my own experience with music composition feels less like creation and more like excavation. Just as an archaeologist at a dig site unearths ancient pottery fragments which must then be restored, examined, and reconstituted, my work as a composer is similarly one of discovery: that of “finding” musical materials, either within myself or (when utilizing recorded sounds) my surroundings, refining those materials, and ultimately assembling them into a whole that is not only cogent but seems – at least to me – inevitable. Completing a piece to my utmost satisfaction engenders an ineffable feeling of “rightness,” as if not a single element may be altered without diminishing the result. My compositional process, therefore, is often accompanied by the strange sensation of finding and reconstructing an artifact that already exists (or perhaps, even, has *always* existed).

I suppose it is fitting, then, that my work be most profoundly affected by the immutable faith tradition of Catholicism, an ancient relic in the modern world. Certain pieces of mine – choral settings of sacred texts, for example – point directly to my faith. Yet its influence is most deeply felt through particular musical elements which permeate my aesthetic and reference obliquely the mystical yet highly-structured Catholic liturgy: an exploration of resonance associated with sacred spaces, a fascination with human utterance as well as sounds mimetic of those experienced during Mass (for instance the tinkling of bells and wisps of rising incense), the cultivation of a transcendental atmosphere, and the treatment of musical performance as ritual.

Composing is a deeply personal experience for me. It is an ongoing process of self-discovery, an endless archaeological dig whose hard-won findings I am privileged to share with the world. And while I certainly hope that my audience comes to know me through what I write, my even greater hope is that my music orients listeners toward a place of introspection and joy.