Transparent Wave VI for vibraphone solo (2003)

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    Several years ago, at the request of publisher Sylvia Smith, I wrote a short marimba solo entitled *Transparent Wave IV* (2000) (one of a series of etudes for various solo instruments entitled *Transparent Wave*). Later, at the request of the brilliant percussionist Tracy Wiggins I expanded that solo into a larger work for percussion entitled *wave / s*. In *wave / s* the original marimba solo is repeated almost verbatim while other percussion instruments are added to it, surrounding it and bathing it in a new sonic context. In a sense, *wave / s* is a mini-concerto for solo marimba and percussion. A few years later, again at the request of Tracy Wiggins, I created a short solo for vibraphone entitled *Transparent Wave VI* (2003). Once again, I repeated the process started with the marimba work and expanded the vibraphone solo, this time into *five* new works, each of which builds upon its predecessor:

       transients / waves for percussion solo (2006)
       transients / images for percussion and piano (2006)
       transients / resonances for chamber ensemble (2006)
       transients / interferences for chamber ensemble (2010)
       transients / refractions for chamber orchestra (2011)

The titles refer to some of the basic aspects of sound that are central to all music: attack transients, sound waves, and resonance. *Transparent Wave VI* is common to all of them. In *transients / waves* the original vibraphone solo is surrounded by other percussion instruments. In *transients / images* we hear a repetition of *transients / waves* but with a piano added to the mix. *transients / resonances* consists of a repetition of *transients / images*, but with a small chamber ensemble of winds and strings added (resonating with the piano sounds). With *transients / interferences* and *transients / refractions* this process changes. These works are more loosely based upon the original vibraphone solo, which is presented in a much more fragmented manner throughout each composition.