

# ROBERT SIROTA

COMPOSER

## PROGRAM NOTES

### *COMPENDIUM DE LUMINE*

Program note by Robert Sirota:

Since both of our children are accomplished violists, I have had the good fortune to be asked by them to write a number of works for that instrument. The first was *Dark Dances* (1994), which I wrote for Jonah when he was 18, and for whom I made two versions, first for viola and piano, and then for viola and orchestra. This was followed by *A Sinner's Diary* (2005), commissioned by Jonah's younger sister Nadia, for two violas, flute, cello, piano and percussion. Two recent works, *Twelve Days* (2012) for six violas, and *Constellations* (2012), for two violas, piano and celesta, have continued this string of viola-centric output, aimed at challenging and entertaining my extraordinarily talented children.

*Compendium de Lumine* is the latest entry in this series. Jonah wanted something that was "not elegiac" – no problem. Since he is truly a master of his instrument, I took this as an opportunity to push the boundaries of my technical expertise, seeking maximum variety of color and expression.

The somewhat encyclopedic title posits a cataloguing of various kinds and qualities of light, which the movement titles enumerate: *Mane* (Morning), *Meridies* (Noon) *Aqua* (Water), *Luna* (Moon), *Stellae* (Stars), and *Sol* (Sun).