

Focus - 24 Images for Vibraphone III-IV

Bart Quartier

\$24.00

Norsk Musikforlag

Instrumentation: [vibraphone](#)

Web: [sample pages](#)

This book is written in the same manner as Bart Quartier's well-known *Image - 20 Children's Songs for Marimba*, presenting short solos for less-advanced students—this time for the vibraphone. The movements contain one-word programmatic titles, use traditional, contemporary, and jazz harmonies, and last from 30 seconds to several minutes. In addition to traditional elements of vibraphone playing, several pieces use extended techniques, such as various striking implements, bowing, and preparing the instrument with a piece of rubber between the bars.

While these pieces are intended for less-advanced students, it is important to note that they are not for absolute beginners. A reasonable understanding of basic four-mallet technique and confidence in reading are required. That being said, a teacher can easily peruse the book and select material that is appropriate in difficulty and length for a specific student, with all 24 works being playable at the undergraduate level. Several could even be selected to form a suite for recital performance. More advanced performers, or even professionals, could certainly consider performing these works, as Quartier has accomplished the admirable task of creating serious, aesthetically pleasing music that just happens to be technically appropriate for students.

All the pieces are included on Quartier's outstanding double CD *Life Path*, which is reviewed in this issue (also containing all the works from his *Image* collection, as well). In crafting short, technically accessible works that are highly listenable, compositionally sound, and full of character, Bart Quartier may have created our genre's *Mikrokosmos*!

—Jason Baker