



Michael Cooke, a 1993 graduate of the University of North Texas, is a talented performer and composer. This Louis Armstrong Jazz award winner mainly plays tenor sax, but you will also hear him play soprano sax, alto sax, flute, bass clarinet, bassoon and percussion. He attended U.N.T. on a competitive bassoon performance scholarship. Michael graduated cum laude with many different areas of study; jazz, ethnomusicology, music history, theory and of course composition.

In 1991 Michael began his professional career performing in many north Texas area symphonies. He also has performed in jazz and free improvising ensembles. Michael has toured Spain, Mexico, and across the United States with various groups. Cimarron Music and Productions of Dallas published many of Michael's compositions in 1994. Relocating to the San Francisco Bay Area, he has been striving to develop his own style and has recently started studying Larry Ochs' "Radar" composition techniques. Uncompromising, fiery, complex, passionate, and cathartic is how the All Music Guide labeled Michael's playing on "Searching" by Cooke Quartet and "Statements" by Michael Cooke.

In 1999, Michael started a record label called **BLACK HAT RECORDS** and has released three CDs under his name. Michael's latest release, "The Is" by the CKW Trio has been getting great reviews and radio play across the country. "The San Francisco-based CKW Trio is an ambitious bunch who mix a variety of influences, both musical and cultural, and choose an unusual instrumental mix to make music that is very much in their own image." - Jay Collins -One Final Note, 11 January 2005

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For booking & information contact **BLACK HAT RECORDS** at info@blackhatrecords.com



Symphony No. 3 "The Shadows of Japanese Children" by Michael Cooke



About 8:00 A.M., August 7, on the street in front of the former Hiroshima Boardcasting Station. There was a charred body of a woman standing frozen in a running posture with one leg lifted and her baby tightly clutched in her arms.

SAN FRANCISCO COMPOSERS CHAMBER ORCHESTRA
Mark Alburger, Music Director
Friday, June 10, 2005, at 8:00pm
Old First Church, 1751 Sacramento Street, San Francisco, CA

Welcome to the SFCCO's "Connecting with Cowell" concert. This special concert premieres two movements of my new symphony: Symphony No. 3 "The Shadows of Japanese Children." It is based my string quartet with the same title completed in 1993. The original piece was very much influenced by Henry Cowell. It was a time when I began writing music influence by other cultures. I also began experimenting with polyrhythms and elastic-tempos, like Cowell describes in his book, *New Musical Resources*. When the SFCCO decided to perform a symphony by Henry Cowell, I revisited his music and writings. Listening to Cowell's "Ongaku for Orchestra" brought my string quartet to my mind. So I decide to rewrite my string quartet and turn it into a symphony for this special SFCCO concert.

"The Shadows of Japanese Children" is a four-movement work based on Japanese music. A book found in a used bookstore in Dallas, *Unforgettable Fire*, inspired it. Atomic bomb survivors from Hiroshima and Nagasaki filled this book with drawings and stories. Many were about children turned into ash statues - their shadows burned on the ground. This very powerful book reminds us that war is not a video game. This work is dedicated to those children.

The first movement, "Shadows Playing on the Ground", makes use of a melody in a Japanese classical piece by Kengyo Fujinaga called "Yachiyo Jishi" (1741-1744). The second movement, "Where has the Shadow's Father Gone?" is based on the lullaby "Ora No Omboko". The third movement, "The Mountain of One Thousand Good Fortunes is Ablaze!" is based on the folk song "Sempuku-yama". The titles of the second and third movements are based on the lyrics of the original folk song. The fourth movement, "In the Fallen Sun only Shadows Remain" makes use of two more folk melodies "Hora Nero Nen Nero" & "Toryanse". The title of this movement and the first movement come from lines in the beginning of *Unforgettable Fire*. The first and fourth movements are what you will hear at tonight's "Connecting with Cowell" concert.

The Flash: 8:15

The A-Bomb, which was nicknamed "Little Boy", was dropped from the B-29, Enola Gay. It exploded 570 meters above the ground with a light blue flash. The diameter of the fireball was 100 meters and the temperature at its center was 300,000° C. Soon after the explosion black and white smoke covered the whole city and rose thousands of meters high. The pressure of the blast directly under the center of the explosion was from 4.5 to 6.7 tons per square meter. Wooden houses within a radius of two kilometers of the hypocenter collapsed and completely burned from the wind and heat. The fires continued for two days. Some people who were near the center of the explosion literally evaporated and **only their shadows remained**; others were turned to charred corpses.



Walking around the back gate of Shukkeien Garden of Hakushima-cho, I saw an infant boy leaning against the gate and heard him crying. When I approached and then touched him, I found that he was dead. To think that he might have been my son made my heart ache.

Excerpts from *Unforgettable Fire: Pictures Drawn by Atomic Bomb Survivors* edited by Japan Broadcasting Corporation