

**david toub**

(1961- )

**textbook: music of solitary landscapes in hyperspace (piece for IPS)**

(1984-1987)

The title came about because it just sounded interesting. IPS is Ignaz Philipp Semmelweis, the father of asepsis (along with Joseph Lister). I had gotten interested in his life and read parts of his textbook *Die Ätiologie, der Begriff und die Prophylaxis des Kindbettfiebers* while I was living in Chicago. The "textbook" part comes from the fact that each of the seven sections is named for a particular poem or book that I found of interest. While each "text" had something to do with each section, the work is not at all programmatic, and nothing should be read into the music based on what I chose for each section.

The texts are:

I: Cosmic Heat (from the Rig Veda)

II: The Sick Face in the Bowels of the Earth (Sakatara Hagiwara)

III: The Nameless Ones [From Brownstone Eclogues] (Conrad Aiken)

IV: Thought (Walt Whitman)

V: From the Dhammapada

VI: Fern Hill (Dylan Thomas)

VII: Joyful Wisdom (Nietzsche)

*textbook* is a really long piece for solo piano (over two hours in length). Each section stands alone, but I've also gotten fond of listening to this as a continuous work, in which each section flows uninterrupted into the next one. Either way works. The first section includes two solo contrabass players in addition to the piano. It could be done just with a piano, but the two basses sound really nice in conjunction with the bass line in the piano. I wrote it between 1984 and 1987, and it represents a bit of an evolutionary process relating to what I was writing during those years.

-- david toub



**David Toub** (b. 1961, Newark, NJ) has been described as a postminimalist composer. He combines a diverse background in medicine, composition, business and information technology. Initially trained as a violinist, he began composing while in junior high school in Millburn, NJ. Although primarily self-taught, he studied composition on weekends in New York City at the Mannes College of Music from 1975-1977 and at the Juilliard School of Music's Pre-College Division from 1977-1979. At Juilliard, he majored in composition and studied with Sylvia Rabinof, Craig Shuler, Rebecca Scott and [Bruce Adolphe](#). His composition studies, however, perhaps did not have as much impact on his music as did his individual study of scores by [Bartok](#), [Schoenberg](#), [Lutoslawski](#), [Berg](#), [Messiaen](#), [Ives](#), [Ruggles](#) and many other 20th-century composers.

During high school, he heard the radio premiere of [Einstein on the Beach](#) by [Philip Glass](#). While he had some awareness of minimalist music through the record library at Juilliard, Einstein was a seminal event for him. His music at the time, however, drew upon his interest in serial music. Upon graduation from Millburn High School in 1979, Toub entered the University of Chicago and graduated with an AB in the biological sciences in 1983. During college, he did research on the origin of corn with [George Beadle](#) and had an avant-garde music program on the University's radio station, WHPK-FM. At that time, new music by Reich, Glass, Young, Riley and others remained out of the mainstream. As a result of his radio program, Toub met and interviewed these and other composers, as well as [Ravi Shankar](#) and initiated a successful effort to bring alumnus Philip Glass (AB '56) and his Ensemble to the U of C campus for a concert.

Toub did not take any music courses at Chicago, focusing on the sciences and preferring to avoid the more academic and musicology-oriented dept. of music. However, he did continue to compose music, moving away from the 12-tone technique into music with repetitive structures and other modern forms. After graduation from the U. of Chicago's medical school in 1987, he completed postgraduate training in obstetrics and gynecology (Brigham and Women's/Massachusetts General Hospital, Albert Einstein Medical Center), as well as fellowship training in pelvic surgery (Graduate Hospital, Philadelphia), and became board certified in ob/gyn in 1996. He has held memberships in numerous professional organizations, and has published several clinical and research articles and abstracts in peer-reviewed journals. In combination with his active clinical activities, Toub also remained very active as a composer, although he was not in regular contact with musicians and composers. He would notate many of his works during downtime in the hospital, and the advent of computer-based notation enabled him to use a laptop computer for this purpose while on call in the hospital.

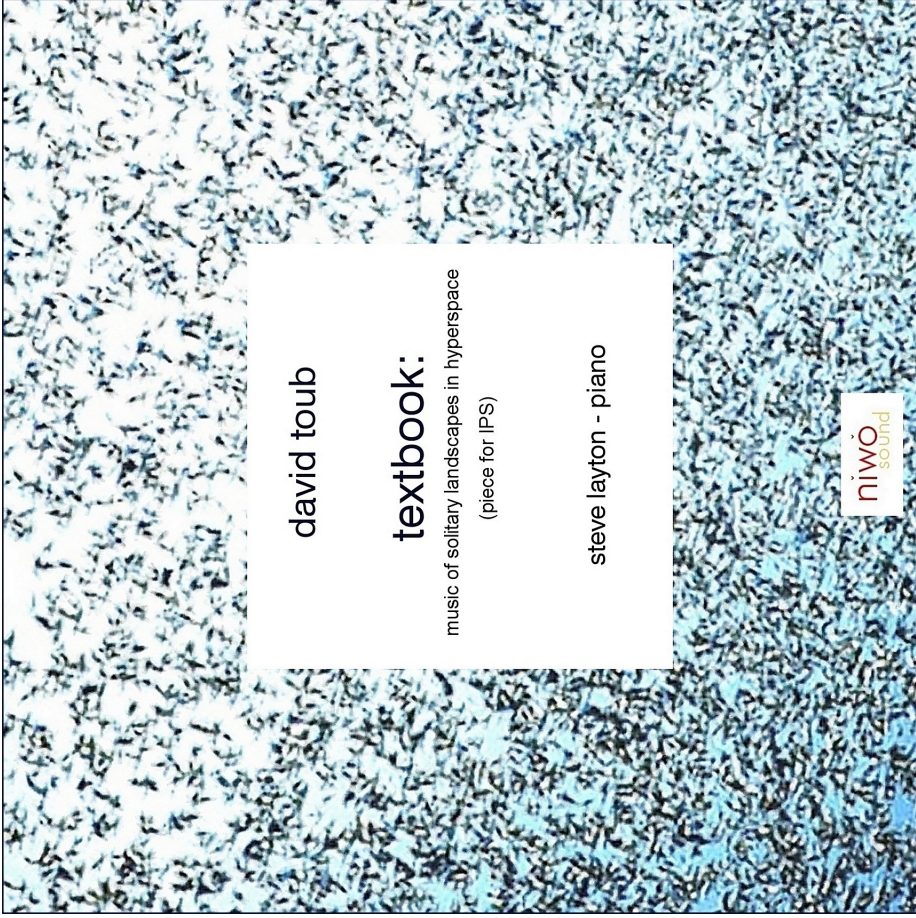
In 1998, Toub left clinical practice at Pennsylvania Hospital to pursue his interests in

information technology, clinical informatics and medical education. In 2003, he received an MBA degree, concentrating in management information systems, from Drexel University. He has done work in managed care, medical writing, and database analysis. He also served as medical director for clinical informatics at DoctorQuality, a startup company that produced Web-based programs for patient safety and enabled people to select doctors and hospitals based on objective criteria. Toub subsequently was Chief Medical Officer at [MedCases](#), where he developed online continuing medical education programs for physicians and then Vice President and Medical Director at [SciFluent](#) in Newtown, PA. As of April, 2008, he left SciFluent to join a medical device startup in Redwood City, CA as Medical Director, although he continues to live just outside Philadelphia, PA.



### **Steve Layton (1956- )**

American composer Steve Layton was born in Pasco, Washington. Long based in Seattle, in 2007 he relocated to Houston, Texas. Layton creates a kind of music that blurs the distinctions between electronic and acoustic art forms, as well as the notions of the traditional and the experimental. He invokes, alters, engages or dissolves questions of history, culture -- even "real" versus "unreal" -- in the mind and ear of the listener. Traditional and "imaginary" modern classical mix with electronic, historical, and world vernacular influences. These works operate on a number of different levels, making an often dense, but rich and colorful music. Besides commissions for works from many western-U.S. ensembles and organizations, Layton has collaborated extensively with both dancers and video artists, and currently is very much involved with the exploration of new ways to propagate contemporary art music via the web.



david toub

## textbook:

music of solitary landscapes in hyperspace  
(piece for IPS)

steve layton - piano



david toub      textbook: music of solitary landscapes in hyperspace (piece for IPS)

- 1 cosmic heat (from the rig veda) 4:08
- 2 the sick face in the bowels of the earth (sakataro hagiwara) 13:23
- 3 the nameless ones (from brownstone eclogues) (conrad aiken) 19:40
- 4 Thought (walt whitman) 15:43
- 5 from the dhammapada 26:43...
- 6 fern hill (dylan thomas) 21:14
- 7 joyful wisdom (nietzsche) 28:54

steve layton, piano  
recorded at NiwoSound Seattle, 2006  
© NiwoSound: [www.niwo.com](http://www.niwo.com)