

**Philip Glass' speech presenting Michael Harrison the Classical Recording Foundation Award for *Revelation* at Carnegie Hall on October 10, 2006**

Michael Harrison is a composer and performer whom I have known for some time and I am very pleased to introduce him this evening. Since there is a biography of highlights of his life in the program, I just would like to add my personal response to him and his music.

I think the first thing that attracted me to him was the striking and resolute character of his work. In a music world all too dominated by fashion and ideological trends, he has made for himself a highly personal music language—one whose freshness appeals to the ear, emotion opens the heart, and lucidity delights the mind. And beneath a first impression of spontaneity and improvisation you will find a rigorous application and appreciation of music's elements—rhythm, intonation and structure.

We have a history, we could even say a tradition, in this country of the maverick, outside composer. Starting with Ives, Ruggles and Cowell, and in recent memory Partch, Nancarrow, Cage and Feldman, and in our time men and women discovering and colonizing new worlds of music rarely found in music schools or even known by professional music writers. Michael, through the quality of his work and personal vision, is in that camp. And as music practitioners and music lovers we owe a great debt to him and his colleagues. They bring fresh light, life and love to a world that means so much to us. Thank you Michael.

--Philip Glass

Glass subsequently modified a phrase from his speech to provide the short press quote "An American Maverick."