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Shulamit Ran is among the most acclaimed living composers today. Trained as a pianist in her native Israel, she premiered her own *Capriccio* for piano and orchestra with the New York Philharmonic, conducted by Leonard Bernstein, at the age of fourteen. After attending the Mannes College of Music in New York, Ran studied with Ralph Shapey at the University of Chicago, where she has been a member of the music faculty since 1973. A recipient of many honors, including the Pulitzer Prize and Kennedy Center Friedheim Award, Professor Ran has also served as composer-in-residence with both the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and the Lyric Opera of Chicago. A vigorous proponent of contemporary Israeli music and arts, it was Shulamit Ran who first urged publication of these interviews in the present form. Her eloquent foreword to this volume is deeply appreciated.

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