

“Aura is a large-scale work of just under 20 minutes duration. The basic musical material derives from a tone-row chosen for its whole-tone characteristics. The composer says, "The surface of the piece focuses on small subgroups from the underlying row, with a resultant tonal quality; "Aura" also refers to traditional form in its dramatic use of transposed recurrent themes which reach a state of resolution at its close."

The work has a distinct post-romantic quality while maintaining a tonally-flexible freedom; the use of orchestral timbres is always effective and evocative of the somewhat mystical "Aura" surrounding blocks, or more often, clouds of sound materials. As Ms. Allen has said about this work, "Just as every verbal utterance has its own tone of voice, its affective extension, so does every sound. It is this ineffable extra that "Aura" celebrates." ~ Philip Krumm, All Music Guide