

More About **Where Rainbows Wait for Rain - The Big Bend Country**

*You go south from Fort Davis until you come to the place where
rainbows wait for rain, and the big river is kept in a stone box,
and water runs uphill. And the mountains float in the air, except
at night when they go away to play with other mountains.*

-- attributed to an old cowboy, his name forgotten

The Big Bend Country is a remote and rugged section of the Chihuahuan Desert in West Texas anchored by the Big Bend National Park. Located just north of the Mexican border and tucked into the namesake “big bend” of the Rio Grande, it is a stunningly beautiful yet wild, mysterious, and unforgiving landscape.

This tone poem for piano and orchestra, evocative of the region, is built on themes and motifs drawn from a chamber ensemble score that I composed and conducted in 1983 to accompany a reading by award-winning poet Sandra Lynn from her book of poetry about the Big Bend region, which also provided the title and epigraph for this new composition. The original 25-minute score--for flute, harmonica, guitar, horn, piano, violin, viola, and cello--has lain dormant for several decades, but when the invitation to write a new composition for piano and orchestra came around, I decided to revive and repurpose some of its music. Working with that material again after so many years has brought with it a flood of treasured memories of a time and place long ago and far away!

This evocative tone poem for piano and orchestra has been recorded by virtuoso pianist Anna Kislitsyna and the Royal Scottish National Orchestra for release on a multi-composer album titled **Journey to Serenity** by Navona Records. Please see the Discography page of my website for more information,