

More About IN THE SHADOW OF A MOUNTAIN - SCENES FROM THE ROCKIES

A song Cycle for SATB and Piano

In August of 2006, I finished my quest to climb all the 14,000' peaks in Colorado (59 by the list I was using). During that 10-year project, I became active on a website called "14er World." That is where I first met Sue Personett, a fellow climber from Colorado. One day in 2004 she posted some poems which immediately caught my eye as being possible material for a song-cycle. So I inquired if she would be interested in such a project. She was, and since I lived in Washington State, we did the work entirely via e-mail. We did not meet personally until we were on a climb together a few months after the cycle was completed. It was premiered the following year at Colorado College, in Colorado Springs.

The original version of the cycle is for medium solo voice and piano. About a decade later, wanting to increase my output of secular choral music, I wrote a voicing for SATB and piano. The recording of that version was made by The First Readings Project, conducted by J. David Moore.

Here is the preface to the score:

"In the shadow of a mountain a world exists." The opening line of the title song sets the stage for the 14 short songs in this cycle. They provide varied glimpses of that mountain world--sometimes serious, sometimes whimsical--including such scenes as changing seasons and weather, flora and fauna, hiking and climbing, all set in the magnificent Rocky Mountains.

The 14 short songs set to poetry on Rocky Mountain themes are titled:

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| 1. The Shadow of a Mountain | 8. The Summit |
| 2. First Thaw | 9. She Will |
| 3. Spring on the Upper Rio Grande | 10. Autumn in the Air |
| 4. Snowy Spring | 11. Snow |
| 5. Wyoming Snow | 12. Wind River |
| 6. Shadows and Sunshine | 13. Celebrate |
| 7. In the Foothills | 14. Chasing Mountains |