

CONCERTO FOR STRING QUARTET - PROGRAM NOTES

I. WINTERS

Most of us have memories of past winters. Images of family, loved ones, personal joys, being in love, nostalgia, loneliness, pain, seclusion, loss, bleakness, ice, winds, snow, festivities, holidays, lights, more darkness, spiritual searching, worship, greyness, bright stars & constellations---all part of the magic as days shorten and coldness seems to remove the reassuring warmth.

WINTERS is a musical response to images of past winters. Opening with a recurring theme in the string quartet, the theme seems to transform and respond to each and every environment and situation it encounters resulting in a central section-- a hymn first introduced by the string quartet then carried by the full orchestra. But, as always, the long winter persists and so do our memories.

II. TACTICS

There always seems to be an established order. Challenging or changing that order can be very tricky. How does one persuade leaders to “see it your way”? I’m sure you’ve sat through meetings where several personalities interact seeking, in various ways, to find favor for their ideas. Many tactics are used —some comical, some boring, some persuasive, some not, some even flirtatious or worse, and some just ridiculous.

TACTICS, presents a call to order and a proposal, if you will.

This is followed by debates and discussions. I won’t define the various tactics. I will let you, the listener, decide for yourself. You see, that’s my “tactic”.