

EULOGY-QUARTET

PROGRAM NOTE:

While reading in my living room, I heard a loud thump against our window. There was a robin lying on our deck quivering. The robin's mate was by his side urging him unsuccessfully to revive and live again. Finally, the mate settled on the deck railing and began singing a very sad song. This continued for what seemed a long time, but finally the mate departed to distant trees.

That evening, while composing in my studio, I heard what seemed to be thousands of birds singing in our back yard. I had not experienced that before, nor have I since. I imagined all the birds in our neighborhood had gathered to mourn the loss of their friend. I recorded the beautiful, haunting sounds and later attempted to transcribe the robin's song for piccolo. This is the experience that resulted in, EULOGY.

I originally wrote EULOGY for flute, clarinet, and bassoon, forming the first movement of my work titled ICONS (2014) commissioned by Chris Grymes and the Sapphire Trio. Later, after moving from Bellingham, WA to Asheville, NC, I adapted and modified the material into this present quartet version.