

PASSING CHIMES- PROGRAM NOTES:

PASSING CHIMES was composed in South Bend, Indiana during the summer and autumn of 1980. Both songs deal with the same subject—the bitter sweetness of death—and both songs are a direct response to the poetry in the aftermath of my own father's death. William Stafford's lines reflect a son's beautiful memories of his father while Dylan Thomas' lines portray a son pleading with his father. While Stafford's poem focuses on the simplicity of the joys of life that he shared with his father, Thomas' moves beyond the immediate to a more urgent, universal sense of man's confrontation with life and with death.

The first performance, which took place in the spring of 1981 at Saint Mary's College, was by Carol Knell, mezzo soprano and Jeffrey Jacob, pianist

RB—1981