

TUNE MY HEART- PROGRAM NOTE

'Tune My Heart' is based around the old Protestant hymn tune, "Come Thy Fount of Every Blessing" or what some scholars call the "Nettleton Tune". Being born and raised in Florence, Alabama, and attending regular Sunday church services in the Methodist Church, I became acquainted at a very early age with this beautiful and simple tune. It was my mother's favorite hymn and she would often ask me to play it for her on the piano whenever I would return home from college and thereafter.

The piece is in five sections. The first is a slow introduction and serves to present the tune in a "primordial" state. The following 4 sections are much quicker-- morphing and eliding into one another with out a break. These sections take us through a brutal, primitive presentation of the tune which flows seamlessly into something like a fiddle hoedown. The fourth section is left with the piano and violin repeating notes while the violin plays differing phrases of the tune in counterpoint with itself. Finally, the "heavens open" and the tune emerges in the high register of the violin "soaring into infinity" while the piano music seems to crumble away.