

SYMPHONY NO.1 "TAROT"- PROGRAM NOTE

In 1998, choreographer, Nolan Dennett, at Western Washington University, asked me to write a dance score based on characters from the ancient Tarot card deck. I studied the history and meaning of the Tarot and became fascinated with the many mystical claims that have survived from the most ancient of origins. Later, I extrapolated some of the material, reworked it, and developed a new concept. Each movement is based on a single card from the Major Arcana of the ancient Tarot deck.

The first movement, Magician, creates the wild, sometimes deeply deceptive, sometimes trivially deceptive creative energy of life. The second movement, Moon, is the beauty, the fear, the light of the dark, and the unconscious controller of all life. The third movement, Chariot, signifies a life-force that must first be perceived, then molded and channeled, or it, the warrior, will destroy. The Magician and Moon influence the Chariot.

SYMPHONY NO. 1: Tarot: *Three Movements from the Major Arcana* is recorded by the London Symphony Orchestra, Roger Briggs, conducting (MMC Recordings 2111).