

Concert Note Thank You's

I want to take this chance to say thank you to the key people in my life who have not only made this concert possible, but who have inspired me and helped me to learn the art of music. To Sara Krohn for being the first one to understand what music I enjoyed. To Allen Shawn who first taught me how to write the music I was hearing. To Tom Bogdan, who gave me back my voice. To Willie Finckel, for being so patient, and helping me to love the piano again. To Janet McGhee, who in so many ways has inspired me to be a better composer, player, conductor, and whose support is never failing. To Amy Williams for Nancarrow, set theory and June in Buffalo. To Phil Salathe, who unknowingly, has made me strive towards excellence. To Stephen Siegel who has been a guiding star, a surrogate father, a caring and compassionate friend. It is Stephen who first sparked my desire to become a composer, and it is Stephen who continues to help me live out my dreams. I can't thank him enough.....

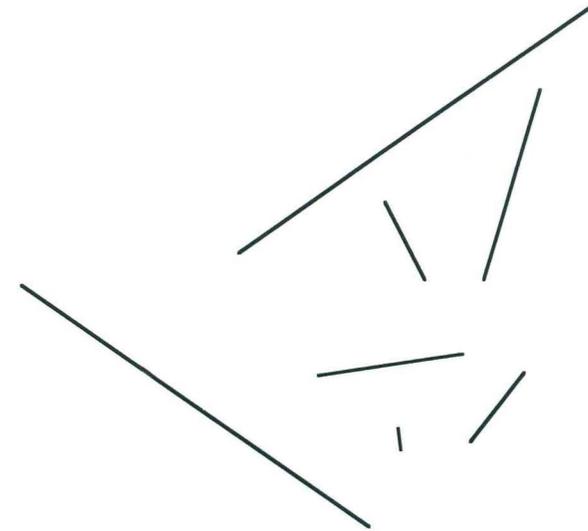
To my mom, my dad, my grandma, Girish, Rachel, Kristina, and Lindsey. You've all been a great help. Thank you for helping me to get done all that I've needed to get done, for the rides and lendings, for the hugs and love.

I would like to also thank the Instrumentalists and Singers who participated their energy, time and interest in order to make this concert possible: Tom Calabro, Laurel Thurman, Kevin Bushee, Kathy Andrew, Chris Faris, Allison Hale, Willie Finckel, Sharon Yarnall, Laura Reid, Charity Dove, Mary DiNallo, Susan Lamb, Matt Follette, John Brauer, Nick Lasoff, and Kerry Woods.

Then of course there's Sue Jones, whose has put up with all my requests like a saint. And Susie Reiss for letting me abuse my copying privileges.

A special thank you to Janet and Stephen for being involved in every step of this project.

I wouldn't have been able to do this without you!



Chamber Works

Monday, May 29
2000

a concert of the music of Leah Muir
.....and some surprises!

Abraham's Sacrifice** (spring 2000)
Janet McGhee, conductor

Soprano
Sharon Yarnall*, Charity Dove, Laura Reid*
Alto
Susan Lamb*, Mary DiNallo*
Tenor
John Brauer, Matt Follette
Bass
Kerry Woods*, Nicholas Lasoff*

Marianne Finckel, *Piano*
Allison Hale, *Flute*
Kathy Andrew, *Violin I*
Kevin Bushee, *Violin II*
Laurel Thurman, *Viola*
Tom Calabro, *Cello*
Christopher Faris, *Bass*

Emergence for *Flute and Piano* (fall 1999)
Svetla Belcheva, video artist

Mephisto's Anvil (spring 1999)
Kathy Andrew, *Violin I*
Kevin Bushee, *Violin II*
Laurel Thurman, *Viola*
Tom Calabro, *Cello*

The Harbor's Secret for *String Quartet* (spring 1999)

Suite Opus 14 Bela Bartok
Leah Muir, *Piano*

**The John Hendrick Memorial Commission
*Member of the Battenkill Chorale

The text for Abraham's Sacrifice was adapted from the New Jerusalem Bible by Leah Muir.

It happened sometime later, God put Abraham to the test.
"Abraham, Abraham, Abraham."
"Take your son Isaac, whom you love, to the land of Moriah."
Rising early next morning, Abraham saddled his ass and took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. He chopped the wood for the burnt offering and started on his journey to Moriah.
"My legs are so weary, How heavy is my heart. It hasn't yet been a days journey. When will I rest? Oh Burden, of burdens."
On the third day of their journey, Abraham looked up and saw a cloud descend on a distant mountain. He told the servants to stay with the donkey and wait, and proceeded alone with Isaac to the place God had showed him.
"Father, here are the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb?"
"My son, God will provide a lamb"
"God will provide a lamb"
"Am I the lamb? I am the lamb!"
When they arrived at the place God had pointed out to them, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood. "My Isaac will be gone.....Oh, a mother's pain! He thinks I do not know. Oh, cruel God! He was your precious gift, why take him now? Abraham! Abraham! How cold is your heart! To kill is a beastly thing, but what creature would kill his own son. Oh cruel man! Oh cruel God! I would die a thousand deaths before I'd sacrifice my son."
Abraham stretched out his hand and seized the knife to kill his son.
"Abraham! Do not raise your hand, for now I know you fear God".
Then looking up, Abraham saw a ram caught by it's horns in a bush. Abraham took the ram and offered it as a burnt offering in stead of his son.
"Yahweh provides, Yahweh provides, On a mountain, Yahweh provides."

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