

## The Many Moods of the Guitar – Program Notes

Many of these works were commissioned and written specifically for me. Following the elegant Tárrega is **Nakina** by Peter Ware, a special work in my repertoire that I commissioned through the Ontario Arts Council. This virtuoso showpiece has a strong blues influence and exudes a dramatic flare throughout its four movements. The selections from Schumann's **Kinderszenen** are introspective in character and their expressive subtleties emerge from simplicity of form. Titles suggest extra-musical and poetic connotations. **Music for the Waiting Angel** and **Sonare** by composer-guitarist Richard Jordan Smoot are lyric works revealing idiomatic writing in a beautiful harmonic language. In contrast, Robert Rollin's **Hassidic Dance**, which I commissioned with additional support from Youngstown State University in Ohio, is a playful setting of a folksong traditionally sung at weddings asking all to put past differences aside and join in friendship. The biting harmonies humorously symbolize conflict while interacting with the folksong theme.

**Dance, Fantasy and Ricercare** are pieces I composed in memory of my grandfather, who first introduced me to the guitar. They are written in a Renaissance style with contemporary and jazz elements. **River Sky** by Kathy Henkel was composed in connection with my poem of the same title. This evocative work has a charming clarity and freshness of form and style. **The Blue Guitar**, by William Roberts, has a lineage progressing from Picasso's famous painting through Wallace Stevens' poem to David Hockney's etchings. This collection of succinct Satiesque miniatures draws influence from popular music. Shimmering and mirage-like, **Manifestations of the Spirit** by Stephen Elderkin leads us back to the Spanish character with which we began and to the closing work, Tárrega's well-known and well-loved favourite **Recuerdos de la Alhambra**.

Enjoy!

**- Lynn Harting-Ware**

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**Francisco Tárrega** (1852-1909) was Spanish master and composer for the guitar. A predecessor of Andrés Segovia, he contributed greatly to the development of guitar technique and wrote pieces with a nationalist and romantic flavor.

**Peter Ware** (b. 1951) prize-winning protégé of Krzysztof Penderecki, has received critical acclaim for his highly stylized compositions. The Toronto resident is frequently commissioned, performed and broadcast.

**Robert Schumann** (1810-1856) epitomizes the German Romantic period. Many of his works are well suited to the intimacy of the guitar.

**Richard Jordan Smoot** (b. 1952) is at the forefront of guitar composition in the United States. Composer-in-residence and faculty member at Ohio Northern University, he is quickly gaining recognition for his chamber and orchestra works.

**Robert Rollin** (b. 1947) continues in the Russian/Jewish tradition of his heritage. Professor and Festival Director at Youngstown State University, the prolific composer is internationally known in many musical genres.

**Kathy Henkel** is a successful composer whose works are often featured on festivals. Living in Hollywood, California, she divides her time between composition and program annotating for the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra and the Chamber Music/Los Angeles Festival.

**William Roberts** (b. 1950), a resident of St. Catharines, Ontario is an eclectic whose activities range from performing and composing for dance bands to contemporary concert venues. In addition to his involvement with Elektra Concerts, he has directed electronic music studios and classes at Brock University.

**Stephen Elderkin** (b. 1955) is a true romantic figure cast into the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. His works are borne out of internal struggle and bare an immediate appeal. The bohemian artist resides in Guelph, Ontario.

**Lynn Harting-Ware** performs throughout North America and has premiered and commissioned numerous compositions. Her dedication and musicality continually inspire composers, drawing them in to the intimacies of the guitar. What she conveys to audiences is beauty, tone and timbre. She received a M.M. from Kent State University and a B.M. from the University of Cincinnati/College-Conservatory of Music. The guitarist has studied in master classes with Oscar Ghiglia, Alice Artzt, Sergio Abreu, Eduardo Fernandez, and Turibio Santos. In her time away from concertizing, she enjoys composing and is active as a writer, poet, and editor of the Acoma Company/Nambe Edition guitar series. She currently resides in Toronto, Ontario.

# River Sky

Sun sky, river sky gold  
floats on a barge  
down the Rappahannock  
soul searching the deep.  
Waves, restlessly chanting  
stories at high, tide,  
leave quiet thoughts behind  
on the shoreline, the walkline.

As blue crabs  
crawl sideways from streams  
into bountiful nets  
of fishermen's dreams,  
a bald eagle  
searches the sand  
for a morsel of shad or striped bass,  
then seizes it with elegant command.

At dusk, dark clouds  
unfold on the horizon,  
graceful and ragged  
like a western mountain range;  
while silhouettes of trees  
stand in relief  
against the meditative sky,  
offering a south wind exchange.

From misty brush,  
crickets converse  
in chirping haiku.  
As waves crescendo and fade,  
the beckoning moonlight  
begins its nocturnal search  
illuminating the river's  
continuous crusade.

Night sky, river sky black  
floats silently  
down the Rappahannock  
soul searching the deep.  
All the beauty of day  
turns into starlight;  
the river's beating heart  
goes gently to sleep.

- L.H. Ware