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AUTUMN RIVULETS (1999)

Program notes:

The title *Autumn Rivulets*, borrowed from Walt Whitman's *Leaves of Grass*, pays homage and makes deliberate reference to William Albright's composition *Rustles of Spring*. Albright was a keen observer of the change of seasons, and autumn was the time of both his birth and his death. Therefore it is at this time of year, with its mysteriously changing light, that I always remember him most. The music requires little comment except for the fact that the second song is set completely in a version of the Javanese *pelog* scale, a seven-tone system used in gamelan music, and is loosely based on elements of the Sundanese *degung* style. *Autumn Rivulets* was premiered in December 1999 by soprano Jennifer Goltz in Ann Arbor, MI, as part of a memorial concert for William Albright.

Texts (Walt Whitman):

I. For Him I Sing (from *Inscriptions, Leaves of Grass*)

For him I sing,
I raise the present on the past,
(As some perennial tree out of its roots, the present on the past,)
With time and space I him dilate and fuse the immortal laws,
To make himself by them the law unto himself.

II. Out from Behind this Mask (from *Autumn Rivulets, Leaves of Grass*)

A traveler of thoughts and years, of peace and war,
Of youth long sped and middle age declining,
(As the first volume of a tale perused and laid away, and this the second,
Songs, ventures, speculations, presently to close,)
Lingering a moment here and now, to you I opposite turn,
As on the road or at some crevice door by chance, or open'd window,
Pausing, inclining, baring my head, you specially I greet,
To draw and clinch your soul for once inseparably with mine,
Then travel travel on.

Instrumentation: Soprano and Piano

Duration: 3:30

Premiere: December 1999, Jennifer Goltz, Soprano, and David Maki, Piano, at the Kerrytown Concert House, Ann Arbor, MI