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DARON HAGEN

Occasional Notes

Occasional Notes was composed as a series of "open letters" to friends. As Ned Rorem has said, "Critics of words use words, critics of music use words." As a composer, I feel I speak better with music. Nos. 3, 4, and 5 were birthday presents. The title, *Consider the Rain*, is drawn from a lovely ensemble piece in Blitzstein's opera, *Regina*. Although I never knew Blitzstein, his influence on my music has been great. The title, *Look Down, Fair Moon*, is drawn from a poem of the same name by Walt Whitman. The melody is drawn from my choral setting of that poem. The chorale from No. 7 figures prominently in a symphony I composed in memory of Norman Stumpf.

The suite may be split up and performed as separate pieces; the order indicated in the score is suggested for performances of the entire suite. The work received its first performance on March 28, 1985 at the Chapel of Saint Paul on Columbia University campus. Robert Gallagher performed the piece and created the registrations indicated in the score; his playing was an inspiration throughout the compilation of the suite.

—Daron Hagen, 3/1/88

1. Meditation No. 7 (to Joseph Schwantner)	Duration: 1:30
2. Consider the Rain (in memoriam, Marc Blitzstein)	1:30
3. Anniversary (to David Diamond)	0:31
4. First Snow (to Ned Rorem)	1:45
5. Polka (to William Coble)	1:12
6. Look Down, Fair Moon (to Robert Gallagher)	1:55
7. Meditation No. 8 (in memoriam, Norman Stumpf)	2:25

Total duration: approximately 12 minutes

Daron Hagen (born Nov. 4, 1961, Milwaukee, Wisconsin); Juilliard School of Music (M.M. 1987), Curtis Institute of Music (B. Mus. 1984); studied with David Diamond, Bernard Rands, Ned Rorem, Joseph Schwantner, and at Tanglewood with Leon Kirchner; composition awards include Barlow International Competition first prize, 1987 ASCAP-Nissim Prize, Bearn's Prize of Columbia University (1985), three BMI Awards to Student Composers, National Federation of Music Clubs Young Composers Contest second prize, University of Wisconsin Orchestral Composition Competition first prize; works commissioned or performed by Philadelphia Orchestra, Saint Louis Symphony, Houston Symphony, Milwaukee Symphony, Texas Opera Theatre, Denver Chamber Orchestra, Orchestra Society of Philadelphia, Milwaukee Music Ensemble, Lehner Trio.

to Leonard Raver
OCCASIONAL NOTES
for Organ

to Joseph Schwantner
1. Seventh Meditation

Austere ♩ = 72

Daron Hagen

ff secca

ff

Sva-

pp cantando, legato

ppp

ppp (with soft 16')

mp

loco

rit.

poco

rit.

poco