

❖❖❖ November 17, 2009 ❖❖❖

TRIBUTARY

by Lynette Westendorf (1951 -)

I composed “Tributary” in honor of the Magic Valley Symphony’s 50th anniversary. It is a tribute to the orchestra, using the Snake River as a metaphor. The composition is a single movement work in sections, as follows:

I- The Source

II- A Desert Blooms

III- Source Revisited

IV- A Ride Through Cauldron Linn

V- Source Revisited

VI- Waterfalls

Several principal players of the orchestra are featured, including principal violin, clarinet, cello, and oboe. The percussion and brass sections are also strongly featured.

In 2006, I had been commissioned to compose a sound-track piece for a touring museum exhibit called “River of Memory: The Everlasting Columbia.” The music was originally intended by the producers to be an orchestra work; however, lack of funding made that impossible and the composition was completed for small ensemble. (The exhibit, along with the accompanying music, has been on tour since that time throughout Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia.)

Since that music was originally orchestral in idea, if not in practice, I have welcomed this opportunity to return to the original vision for some of the River of Memory music for the Magic Valley Symphony and, the Snake River being a tributary to the Columbia, hence the title of tonight’s music— “Tributary.”

–Lynette Westendorf

DR. LYNETTE WESTENDORF was born in Twin Falls and raised on the Minidoka Project north of Rupert, where her parents farmed. She grew up studying piano and organ and, following her graduation from Minico High School in 1969, she moved to Salt Lake City and began her music career with West Coast touring bands. She studied music for one year at Westminster College in Salt Lake City before returning to Idaho to settle with her family in the Wood River Valley. She performed there, composed for various film projects, taught piano lessons, and ran the Northern Rockies Folk Festival with her husband, Richard Hart, then director of humanities for the Sun valley Center.

After sharing the Symphony's 25th anniversary composition prize for her "Autumn Symphony" in 1984, Dr. Westendorf decided to resume her academic composition studies, completing her BS in theory and composition with honors from the University of New Mexico, then her masters and doctoral degrees in composition from the University of Washington in Seattle.

Performing, composing, and teaching now share her professional time. She has four CD recordings of original compositions to her credit and in 2002 was honored with an Emmy for her original score to "False Promise: Lost Land of the Wenatchi," a documentary film that aired on PBS stations throughout the western states. She performs regularly in recital as soloist or accompanist, and in classical, jazz, and new age ensembles.

Dr. Westendorf and her husband reside in the Methow Valley in Washington. Read more about her at lwmusic.com.