PROGRAM NOTE

SILVER DEER

DIANE THOME

SILVER DEER, a duo for violin and piano, was commissioned by Irwin Eisenberg and completed in December 1981 in San Diego, California. The title of the work is taken from a small section of the epic poem SAVITRI by Indian writer Sri Aurobindo. I chose the title because of the qualities of lightness, grace, speed, scintillation, evanescence, and arrest suggested by the poetry. While the compositional exploration of these qualities is non-literal, subtle, and not fully susceptible to verbal description, I feel that the musical dimension most affected by my internalizing the poetry was the temporal one. The rhythmic aspects of the work, both in the large and the small, are characterized by sudden shifts of activity, density, and silence. The excerpt from the poem is given below:

"Moon-bright though livest in thy inner bliss. 
That comest like a silver deer through groves 
Of coral flowers and buds of glowing dreams, 
Or fleest like a wind-goddess through leaves, 
Or roamest, O ruby-eyed and snow-winged dove, 
Flitting through thickets of thy pure desires 
In the unwounded beauty of thy soul."
Silver Deer
by
Diane Thome