THE GOLDEN MESSENGERS

Diane Thome
PROGRAM NOTE

THE GOLDEN MESSENGERS

The GOLDEN MESSENGERS was commissioned for the Seattle Youth Symphony by the Seattle Arts Commission. Like several of my more recent compositions, this work was initially inspired by some lines found in Sri Aurobindo's epic poem, Savitri. In this case however, a single couplet was extracted from its context:

"Our smallest parts have room for deepest needs;
There too the golden messengers can come."

These two lines continued to permeate my imagination and thought processes, first suggesting a set of orchestral variations, later a somewhat freer group of movements connected by various reiterations, rhymes, motivic identities and digressions. Tonally the work moves between sections which possess a clear key center, and sections which are based on serial and atonal approaches. I remained particularly intrigued with the idea of a group of distinctly contrasting movements which—notwithstanding the interrupting dramas and tensions of various interior sections—would ultimately convey a sense of calm, of gentleness, of peace. The orchestra is characterized by considerable use of solo instruments in all groups plus a complement of percussion, harp, piano, celeste.

Begun on August 15, 1984, the piece was completed in mid-December of that year.
ORCHESTRA

Piccolo
Flutes (3)
Oboes (3)
English Horn
Clarinet in Bb (3)
Bass Clarinet
Bassoons (4)

Trumpets in C (4)
Horns (4)
Trombones (2 tenor, 2 bass)
Tuba

Kélp
Piano
Celeste

Xylophone
Vibraphone
Glockenspiel
Suspended Cymbal
Triangle
Chimes
Tympani
Bass Drum
Giant Tam-tam

Violin I
Violin II
Viola
Violoncello
String Bass

Score is written in "c" except for bass which sounds 8 basses; and glockenspiel, xylophone, celeste which sound 8va.

Duration: ca. 13½"
commissioned for the Seattle Youth Symphony

by the Seattle Arts Commission
Sightation
BRANO No. 10 (PLAIN SCORE-24 STAVES)
completed December 15, 1984
Seattle, Washington

Fine