The Yew Tree

for soprano and large chamber ensemble

by

Diane Thome
Program Note

THE YEW TREE
Diane Thome

This composition marks a return to purely instrumental writing after an interim of nearly a decade during which time my creative attention was centered on the electronic medium. The piece was inspired by my desire to provide a musical setting for the poem by Robert Strassburg entitled, "Love's Springtime." The title, THE YEW TREE, is a reference to a central image of the poem which occurs at the beginning of its second verse. The poetic line is exploited compositionally as a primary structural demarcation. The work was commissioned by the Orchestra of Our Time in New York City with the support of a National Endowment of the Arts Composer's Grant awarded in 1979. THE YEW TREE is recorded on Crystal Records with soprano Montserrat Alavedra.
Instruments

- Soprano
- Flute
- Oboe
- Bb Clarinet
- Bassoon
- Violin
- Viola
- Violoncello
- Harp
- Celeste
- Piano
- Glockenspiel
- Xylophone
- Vibraphone
- Chimes
- Timpani
- Temple Blocks
- Suspended Cymbal
- Giant Tam-Tam
Love's Springtime

A mountain echo
Resounds
In my heart,
This April morn
The white dove of rhythm
Chants
An ethereal minstrel song
With gentle
Unpretending trills
Softly sung
Amid the thorns and butterflies
The sky-lark cries
Spreading far and wide
Love sonnets
Reveries of joy
Most sweet
Seated in a Yew-tree
I receive heaven's light
Calm and free
Tenderly spun in early spring
Your love delays
With gentle splendor
My life's excursion
Makes immortal
My rapid passage
My temporal way.

Robert Strassburg
Commissioned by the Orchestra of Our Time

© 1979 by Diane Thomas
a-mid the thorns and butterflies the skylark cries

spreading, spreading far and wide
Love sonnets reveries of joy most sweet.
Piu Mosso $d=96$

(Speaking, softly and freely) seated in a
Yeow tree I receive heaven's light

calm and free — tenderly spun
mortal

my rapid passage my temporal way.
Poco accel...

Vn.  trem.

Va.  trem.

Vc.  trem.

Giant Tam-Tam

ad lib. number of beats until Sop. entry:

Cl.  agitato legato

Vn.  fff

Va.

Vc.  molto vib.

Sop.  ah -> mm p

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