

LESLIE WILDMAN

Phases

Anne Hedstrom, *flute*
Catherine Ledbetter, *oboe*
David Jones, *clarinet*
Francine Floyd, *bassoon*

Susan Koelle, *viola*
Andrea Arksey, *cello*
Eric Eidbo, *trumpet* ..
Suzanne Johnson, *horn*

Program notes

"Three Delineations of Curtmantle"

Curtmantle was the nickname given to Henry II, King of England by his barons; the delineations are musical portrayals of three events in the life of the king. "...of the cloak given to a beggar" recalls an incident wherein Henry and his friend Thomas Becket come across a beggar while out riding together. The good-natured Henry decides that his friend should have the honor of donating a cloak to the beggar. However, the somewhat less generous Becket is more inclined to keep his cloak than give it away. After a struggle, Henry wrests the cloak away from Becket and cheerfully tosses it to the bewildered beggar. "The Penitent at Becket's Tomb" depicts Henry doing penance at Becket's tomb after the latter's murder by Henry's soldiers. Henry's personal grief at the loss of his friend contrasts sharply with the public show of penance which he is forced to make for the murder of a popular public figure. The final movement, "Dies Irae," shows the king struggling with death; a lonely and bitter man whose wife and sons have warred against him in open rebellion.