

PROGRAM NOTE:

In setting John Donne's sermon text, I was intrigued by the concept of opposing ideas resolving to a higher level, a world beyond opposition. How might it be expressed in music, this *no darkness nor dazzling, but one equal light; no noise nor silence, but one equal music; no foes nor friends, but one equal communion; no ends nor beginnings, but one equal eternity?* And what might have been Donne's state of mind as he delivered these words – perhaps a sort of spiritual exaltation? The music uses word painting to achieve a series of mounting climaxes depicting these heavenly attributes – light, music, communion, eternity – and finally, amen.