



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

*In Recital*

AN EVENING OF NEW MUSIC

NEW WORKS BY:

Jan Randall

Doug Rusu

Glen Ethier

(Candidates for M.Mus in Composition)

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1987

8:00 p.m.

*Convocation Hall, Old Arts Building*

## PROGRAMME

A Netherpoem (1986)

for baritone, small SATB choir,  
percussion and tape

Jan Randall  
(b. 1952)  
based on a poem  
by Don Domanski

Baritone: Laurier Fagnan  
Percussion: Scott Martin  
Tape prepared by Jan Randall  
Conducted by Jan Randall

Dinosaur Theory (piece in 7 sections) (1987)

Doug Rusu  
(b. 1948)

Flute: Alison Grant  
Clarinet: Robin Taylor  
Flugelhorn: Larry Knopp  
Piano: Jeff McCune

Improvisations for Piano and Tape (1987)

Jan Randall  
(b. 1952)

Piano: Jan Randall  
Tape prepared by Jan Randall

Psalm 138 (1986)

for small SATB choir and wind ensemble

Glen Ethier  
(b. 1960)

Oboe: Christine Wilson  
French Horn: Chris Gongos  
Bass Clarinet: Janis Lindberg  
Bassoon: Sherri Goethe

## A NETHERPOEM

in the basement where evening pulls in  
the huge ropes of morning  
where the sun fills the furnace red at nighttime

in the basement where the gramophone plays  
the slow sound of the moon against the world  
I came across an empty house  
the empty rooms of your dark body

not the body you use now  
but the other one  
you didn't know existed

the body of a dwarf clothed  
in handfuls of water

the little figure lying on the mineral floor

in the basement where the ocean originates  
where the undersea mountains unfold into rain  
where all the tides go to sleep without end  
I hear the voice you never used

in the basement where all the fables come from  
where all the stories smell of bandages  
and spilled medication  
where a riderless horse nudges  
your folded body  
I hear a voice that could  
have been you

the missing words that sound like  
a waterglass filled with footsteps  
that are always coming back patiently  
from the sea.

Don Domanski

PSALM 138

I thank You Yahweh with all my heart  
Because You have heard what I said  
In the presence of angels I play for You  
And bow down before Your holy Temple

I give thanks for Your name for Your love and  
faithfulness  
Your promise is even greater than Your fame  
The day I called for help You heard me  
And You increased my strength

Yahweh all kings on Earth give thanks to You  
For they have heard Your promises  
They celebrate Yahweh's actions  
"Great is the glory of Yahweh!"  
From far above Yahweh sees the humble  
From far away He marks down the arrogant

Though I live surrounded by trouble  
You keep me alive to my enemies' fury!  
You stretch Your hand out and save me  
Your right hand will do everything for me  
Yahweh Your love is everlasting  
Do not abandon us whom You have made

Text from the Jerusalem Bible

## THE CHOIR

Sopranos: Elsie Hepburn, Merrill Tanner, Janet Tonin,  
Denise Weleschuk

Altos: Barb McKinley, Joy-Anne Murphy,  
Judy Wishloff

Tenors: Todd Braye, Sean Ferguson, Glen Halls

Basses: Mark Israel, Mike Prokopiw, Hugh Semple

The composers wish to thank the performers for their work, their time, and especially their patience. We have been honored to work with so many musicians interested in performance of new works, and we respectfully thank them for their effort.

Many thanks also to Garth Hobden, technical engineer, and Brenda Musselman in the Department of Music office, for their invaluable assistance.

## ABOUT THE WORKS

### A Netherpoem

I met Don Domanski during a tour of Eastern Canada, in Wolfville, Nova Scotia. He was one of 30 poets being interviewed for a CKUA radio series and I was the sound engineer. His home is a small house that he's crammed with an odd collection of artifacts - from fossils and shells to Greek statues, voodoo masks and rare old books. It was from his apparent fascination with history and traditions that I was drawn to this poem. (J.R.)

### Dinosaur Theory

Doug's organic work is based on a single generating motive, or musical statement shaped thus:

From the few notes in this statement, and from the general shape in rhythmic and dynamic crescendo comes the whole of the musical material governing the form of this piece. Timbre control plays an important role.

### Improvisations for Piano and Tape

Jan's second work is a multi-faceted piece combining taped music and live performance. The work is characterized by a certain amount of freedom for the performer within the bounds of the movements delineated by the tape.

### Psalm 138

Glen's setting of this Psalm from the Jerusalem Bible uses the choir in a traditional fashion, but within the context of a quartal harmonic idiom. Although the sounds and colors generated may be that of a traditional 4-voice choir, the prevailing quartal harmony adds a different dimension to the work. Between the verses of the Psalm, the wind ensemble takes on a characteristic of its own, developing material presented in the short oboe cadenza during the introduction.