

sacred trees
for piano and percussion
 Hackberry
 Chinquapin Oak
 Red Oak
 Blue Beech
 Elm

12 minutes

Brooke Joyce (2007)

Commissioned and premiered by the Strike Duo (Jeffrery Meyer and Paul Vaillancourt),
January 2009

Recorded on Luminescence Records LUM002, "Strike - Convergence"

Program Note:

This piece was inspired by several trips to the Effigy Mounds National Monument in Iowa, a park that contains the remnants of several large Native American burial mounds, some of which are shaped like birds and animals. My experiences there led me to reflect on my own sense of ritual, memory, and spirituality. As I was composing this music, I decided to focus my reflections not on the mounds or the people who built them, but rather on the various and ancient trees that grow in the area. Trees are thought to be sacred in many faith traditions, and to me, they are a kind of silent witness to the passage of time and the people who come and go under their gaze.