

The Path

for tenor, clarinet, string quartet and piano

9 minutes

Brooke Joyce (2004)

Commissioned by the Nash Ensemble
Premiered at Princeton University, 2005

Program Note:

My piece was inspired by the poetry of Kathleen Raine, whose work I first encountered nearly fifteen years ago.

The Path (from *The Hollow Hill*, 1960-4)

I have walked on waves of stone
Not knowing that the ground I trod
Is mirage in a watery glass,
A shimmering play of traveling light
Whose dangerous seas we call a world.
The shadow of the pleasure-dome
Midway floats, but deeper down
All images on that surface cast.
Houses and cities seem and pass
On the meniscus of the flood.

There is a path over all waters
Leading to my feet alone
I have seen radiant from the sun
Setting beyond Skye and the more distant isles,
And rising over the rainbow seas of Greece.
It is the way to the sun's gate,
And I must walk that path of fire
That trembles, is scattered, reassembles
On all the sunlit moonlit waters of the world.

—Kathleen Raine

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