

Yniswyrddn (The Isle of Glass)

for orchestra: 3(pic:af1).3.3(bcl).3/4.3.3.1/timp.3perc[glock., snare, claves, tam-tam, sizzle cymbal, 4 toms, crotales, chimes, wooden wind chimes, metal wind chimes, bass drum, crash cymbals, vibraphone, xylophone]/hp.cel/str

9 minutes

Brooke Joyce (1997)

Premiered by the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, 1999

First Prize, Cincinnati Symphony Young Composers Competition, 1998

Winner, Wayne Peterson Prize, 1998

Program Note:

The word *Yniswyrddn* is the Welsh word for “The Isle of Glass,” which is the place name historically linked to the Isle of Avalon in England. My father used to teach there in the summer, so I had several opportunities to travel throughout the British Isles as a child. Today, one can visit the mythical land of King Arthur in the town of Glastonbury. My music is not meant to be a literal depiction of the geography of Avalon or the legend of Arthur, but rather, it was the idea and the image of a mysterious place that existed between two dimensions that provided the impetus for my work. The piece begins with a deliberately slow and ambiguous tempo and gradually accelerates as the primary thematic material, only hinted at in the beginning, emerges into the forefront of the texture. After reaching the climax (the Isle has emerged), a short development follows but quickly disintegrates. Finally, the opening texture and tempo return, echoing and resonating what has come before.