i am like a feather for baritone, violin, guitar and piano

8 minutes

Brooke Joyce (2005)

Commissioned and premiered by the Nietzsche Ensemble, 2006

Program Note: I am like a feather floating in the atmosphere; on every side is depth unfathomable.

The water which so calmly reflects the fleeting clouds and the primeval trees I have never seen before. It may have washed some distant shore, or framed a glacier or iceberg at the north, when I last stood here.

My path hitherto has been like a road through a diversified country, now climbing high mountains, then descending to the lowest vales. From the summits I saw the heavens; from the vales I looked up to the heights again. In prosperity I remember God; in adversity I remember my own elevations, and only hope to see God again.

-- Journal of Henry David Thoreau, February 21, 1842