



Dark Lake

FOR BASS FLUTE & PIANO

(2012)

for Janet Carol Schlein Somers

PAUL MACK SOMERS

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PROGRAM NOTE

... the pent and darkened lake,
Cooled by the pendent mountain's shade,
Whose deeps, till beams of noonday break,
Afflicted moan, and latest hold
Even into May the iceberg cold...

— from *May-Day* by Ralph Waldo Emerson

Even as I was composing my Flute Sonata as a secret 70th birthday gift for my wife in the early months of 2012, Emerson's passing image of a dark lake informed the composition of the slow movement. When Jan's bass flute arrived only days after the composition, and I heard its haunting sound alone, I felt it was the perfect instrument for that image-driven music.

It was first played at a big Saturday openhouse for friends near and far between our 70th birthdays. Among those invited to the openhouse was Tony Noon, who had been the general contractor for the building of our house and had done much of the work himself. A flute sonata wasn't exactly his cup of tea, but he sat there stoically. But when the bass flute came out, his eyes lit up. I could read his mind: "Ah, plumbing. *This I get!*"

After Jan had played the piece in public with the bass flute used for the central movement, we agreed that the sound shift was too severe, and decided that the Flute Sonata should remain for C Flute throughout. The slow movement, now titled *Dark Lake*, was extracted as a stand-alone piece for bass flute and piano, and marked to be played more slowly.

PAUL MACK SOMERS (b. 1942) studied composition with Warren Benson and George Andrix at Ithaca College Conservatory, and participated in master classes with Norman Dello Joio under a Ford Foundation Grant. Somers has composed theatric, vocal, choral, chamber, and orchestral music. His music has been performed in Lincoln Center, Weill Hall in Carnegie Hall, and Ars Vitalis.

Commissioners over the years have included Colonial Symphony, Summit Chorale, Palisades Virtuosi, Brett Deubner, Ellen Hassman, Ron Levy, Michiko Otaki, and the Jacques Cousteau Center for Estuarine Research for a young audience work related to the ecology of the Delaware Bay. He has also composed various solo instrumental works over the years, available on the CD "Sonatas and More" by Maurice River Press (MRP1502) distributed by Theodore Presser Company. He and his wife Janet live along the Maurice River near Mauricetown, New Jersey.

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for Bass Flute and Piano

Duration: c. 4'30"

(Movement 2 from Sonata for Flute and Piano)

PAUL MACK SOMERS

Lento (♩ = 40)

Bass Flute *p*

Piano *pp*

con Ped. ad lib.
una corda throughout

5 *mp* *p* 2 2 *mp* 2 8va-----

10 *pp* *mp* 8va----- *loco*

14

mf f

18

mp

22

mf

25

mf

29

f

sempre legato

mf *f*

31

f *p*

33

p

35

f *f*