

# Ananda Concerto for Violin and Orchestra

Dec. 25, 2006—May 4, 2007

Duration: about 20 minutes

As a youngster, before starting violin lessons, I would go to the basement, get a dowel, and saw it across my arm pretending to play a new violin concerto. Many years later, it has remained a dream to create one; but no longer able to play myself, a practical opportunity eluded me. However I now am collaborating with Ananda-Eric Pritchard, and so the natural thing seems to be—write him a concerto! There is also a piano reduction of the orchestral parts suitable for performance.

From 1980 through 1982 I composed the *Goldbug Variations*, at first for two pianos and then arranged for full orchestra, and also for five synthesizers. It was too long, difficult, and a touch immature; the piano version had one performance for an audience of 25 in 1982. Drastically edited and re-written, it forms the basis for the second movement of this concerto.

About the various exotic terms in this score; “Ananda” is a Sanskrit word roughly meaning “bliss”, and is Eric’s spiritual name. The first movement’s title is a Hindu mantra frequently used by devotees of Krishna, and translates as “homage to the blessed son of Vasudeva”. The last movement is an expansion of the one-minute finale of the 11<sup>th</sup> Sonata for Solo Violin, first performed by Eric, which originally was in a set of 64 movements from 1979 related to the changes of the *I Ching*. Hence the Taoist pun on “hoe-down”, and the Transfiguration from its former version. The deep inner meaning of “Hayseedic” is best left for others to elucidate.

Naturally enough, this work is dedicated to Ananda-Eric Pritchard in deep appreciation for his friendship and high degree of dedication to musical and spiritual ideals.

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