

Ananda Songs for Soprano, Violin and Piano

August 23—October 27, 2007
Duration: about 16 minutes

I have long wanted to set Rumi and here's my chance in *A Sufi Song*, from an excerpt changed around for my peculiar purposes.

I wrote *Who Am I* in three minutes at a gas station in West Virginia after listening to cassettes of Ram Dass talking about Ramana Maharshi.

The *Hare Krishna Mahamantra* started off in 2002 for six string electric violin and voices in unison (vocal line entirely repetitive); then came a piano and voice version that was too hard for the piano and too simple to sing! Now I have the balance just right, at least I think so.

This is one of a series of works dedicated to Ananda-Eric Pritchard.

Lyrics to *A Sufi Song*

If the Beautiful One is not
inside you what is that Light
hidden beneath your cloak?
From a distance you tremble with fear.
Can't you see the mighty warrior
standing ready in your heart?
The flame in his eyes
has seared away every veil!
So why do you linger behind the curtain,
afraid of what you cannot see?
Open your eyes! The Beloved is
staring you right in the face.
If no guru has placed
his Light within your heart
what bliss can you find in this world?

--Rumi

(adapted by B.R. from an excerpt of "Can't You See the Mighty Warrior", ode 406, in "A Garden Beyond Paradise: The Mystical Poetry of Rumi", translated by Jonathan Star, Bantam 1992)

Lyrics to *Who Am I?*

Who am I?
I am not the thought.
What thought?
The thought that I am not the thought
is the thought that I am not.
Who am I?
I am not the mind.
What mind?
The mind that thinks the thought that I am not
the mind is the mind that I am not.
Who am I?
I am not the breath.
What breath?
The breath that feeds the mind that thinks the
thought that I am not the breath
is the breath that I am not.
Who am I?
I am not the song.
What song?
The song that sings with breath that feeds the mind
that thinks the thought that I am not the song
is the song that I am not.
Who am I?

--B. R.

Lyrics to *Hare Krishna Mahamantra*

Hare Krishna Hare Krishna Krishna Krishna Hare
Hare
Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare

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