

MUSICAL PRAYER

PAUL TAUB

flute

Barang I (1974)

Barbara Benary
1946–2019

Program notes written by Paul Taub

Barbara Benary was a scholar and performer of Indonesian gamelan music, among other musics of the world. *Barang I* is a solo exploration of a pentatonic Javanese mode. Benary was one of my professors at Rutgers University in the early 1970s.

Blue-Tune Verses (1997)

Noel DaCosta
1929–2002

Noel DaCosta was born in Nigeria to Jamaican Salvation Army missionaries. After immigrating to the United States as a child, he studied violin and composition and became a professor at Rutgers. Imagine this piece as a poem with short verses, interspersed with brief interludes.

Air in G Minor (1947)

Lou Harrison
1917–2003

Lou Harrison was a major American composer of the 20th century who was in residence at Cornish College of the Arts several times in the 1980s and 1990s, where I had the pleasure of meeting and working with him. I love the ambiguity of the drone on D, played by Joseph Adam tonight on the portative organ, for this meditative piece in G minor!

The Moon and the Sun Are Fellow Travelers (1999)
for alto flute

Jarrad Powell
b. 1948

Jarrad Powell was born in Billings, Montana and is Professor Emeritus at Cornish College in Seattle. I commissioned this piece from him in 1999. It takes its title from Matsuo Basho, Japan's greatest haiku poet: "The moon and the sun are eternal travelers. Even the years wander on. A lifetime adrift in a boat, or in old age leading a tired horse into the years, every day is a journey, and the journey itself is home."

Bittersweet Music III (1999)
for bass flute

Bun-Ching Lam
b. 1954

Bun-Ching Lam was born in Macao, China, but currently splits her time between New York and France. I commissioned this piece from her in 1999. She writes that it was "inspired by a visit to the Meian Temple, the Mecca of the Fuke-shu school of *shakuhachi* players. I have no intention of writing traditional Japanese or *shakuhachi* music, but would like to evoke the meditative quality of these compositions."

Katherine Hoover's work has become one of the most enduring solo pieces written at the end of the 20th century. She writes that "Kokopeli, the flute player, was a great *mahu*, or legendary hero of the Hopi. He is said to have led the migrations through the Southwest, the sound of his flute echoing through the great canyons and cliffs. In this piece I have tried to capture some of this sense of spaciousness, and of the Hopi's deep kinship with this land."



Recognized as one of today's leading interpreters of contemporary music, flutist **PAUL TAUB** is known as a long-time Professor of Music at Cornish College of the Arts in Seattle (retired, 2018), and as a presenter of innovative concerts with repertoire ranging from Bach to Takemitsu to Pēteris Vasks. He has performed widely across North America, Europe and in Central America and Asia, having appeared in venues such as Symphony Space/New York, Benaroya Hall/Seattle as well as twice at the Warsaw Autumn Festival, San Francisco's Other Minds Festival, the Beijing Summer Festival and for the New York Flute Club. For more than twenty years he was the flutist and Executive

Director of the Seattle Chamber Players, commissioning over 100 new works and performing in Moscow, St. Petersburg, Beijing, Milan, Kiev, Copenhagen, and other major European cities, as well as presenting over 100 concerts in Seattle.

As a chamber musician, Taub has performed regularly with ensembles and collaborators as diverse as the Seattle Modern Orchestra, Byron Schenkman and Friends, the Seattle Symphony Chamber Music Series, pianist Jovino Santos Neto, and guitarist Michael Partington. As a concerto soloist, he has appeared with Seattle's Philharmonia Northwest, the Seattle Modern Orchestra, and many other regional orchestras. His two solo CDs – *Edge*, on Periplum, and *Oo-Ee*, on Present Sounds, feature many works commissioned or premiered by Taub by composers including Pēteris Vasks, Giya Kancheli, Janice Giteck, Bun-Ching Lam, and Sergei Slonimsky. He has also recorded on Innova, CRI, New Albion Tzaddik and many other labels in music ranging from that of John Cage (in a collector's item vinyl box set of Cage conducting *Atlas Eclipticalis*) to works by Paul Dresner, Reza Vali, Anna Clyne, John Luther Adams, and many other American and international composers.

Taub has served two terms on the Board of Directors of both the National Flute Association and Chamber Music America, and is currently the President of the Seattle Flute Society. He works closely with the Baltic Arts Council Northwest and is on the Advisory Board of the Seattle Modern Orchestra.

He received a Bachelor of Music from Rutgers University and an MFA from the California Institute of the Arts. His teachers include James Scott, Michel Debost, Samuel Baron, Karl Kraber, and David Shostac, plus Marcel Moyse and Robert Aitken whom he considers his mentors.

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