

Awakening

Awakening for solo piano was written in 1984 at the height of the US-Soviet arms race, as a response to the threat of nuclear annihilation. It was premiered by the composer at a Concert for Peace, which she organized in Columbia, SC, to benefit the Carolina Peace Resource Center's work to prevent nuclear holocaust.

She writes:

"The first movement is agitated, with angular, almost constant 16th notes expressing anxiety and fear. The second movement is calm, spacious, like a warm, soft breeze, a connection with the peace and the Infinite Love which pervades the universe. The third movement reaches towards the triumph of good, opening with quiet chords which build to a majestic conclusion, expressing the hope of Psalm 126, 'those who sow in tears shall reap in joy.'"

Duration: ca. 10 min.

Performance Notes

Pedal: Change or release only where indicated. No pedal unless indicated.

Accidentals: Carry through the measure, but apply only to register and staff indicated.

2nd Movement

Pizz. (f.t.)=pluck string with fingertip, towards center of string (may use rubber thimble to protect string).

Pizz. (f.n.)=pluck string with fingernail or plectrum.

For harmonic, lightly touch string at node indicated. Release after plucking, to let sound ring.

+ = mute string(s) with fingertips, near pin, while striking keys normally with other hand.

Then remove fingertips to let sound ring.

About the Composer:

Meira Warshauer's music, performed internationally to critical acclaim, reflects her personal spiritual journey and communicates directly to the heart and soul of the listener. She has received awards from ASCAP, Meet the Composer, the American Music Center, International Alliance for Women in Music, and the Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina, and Artist Fellowships from The MacDowell Colony, The Hambidge Center, and the S.C. Arts Commission. She is the Nancy A. Smith Distinguished Visitor in Residence at Coastal Carolina University.

Warshauer has devoted much of her creative output to Jewish themes and their universal message. *Bracha (Blessing)* for violin and piano was recorded for the *Feminissimo* CD on Albany Records (2008), which has also released her acclaimed *Streams in the Desert* disk of Torah-based choral/orchestral works (2007). *Yishakeyni (Sweeter than Wine)* for soprano, flute, and piano, received the IAWM's Miriam Gideon Award in 2004. *Tekeeyah (a call)*, the first concerto ever written for shofar/trombone and orchestra, began its premiere season in 2009 with a five-orchestra consortium.

Her work also reflects a love and concern for the earth. A profile of her *Symphony No.1: Living, Breathing Earth* was featured on the nationally broadcast PRI radio show "Living on Earth" in spring, 2007, during the symphony's premiere season with commissioning orchestras Dayton Philharmonic, South Carolina Philharmonic, and Western Piedmont Symphony.

A graduate of Harvard, New England Conservatory of Music, and the University of South Carolina, whose composition teachers include Mario Davidovsky and Jacob Druckman, the Wilmington, North Carolina native currently resides in Columbia, South Carolina.