

Andrew Waggoner: Collines parmi étoiles... (2003)

Program Notes:

Collines parmi étoiles... (*Hills Among Stars...*) was composed in 2003 for violist Melia Watras. It sprang from one concise dream-image, or rather dream-sequence: “a solitary figure addresses the hills and the hills respond.” What exactly this means should be a matter of individual experience for each player, but the makings of this scenario were with me in composing this piece: a starry sky, the lone questioner, the hills reaching into the vault of the sky, the old questions, the deep silence, and then: a response; from where, who knows? There is simply a feeling by the end of the piece that a boundary has been crossed, something has opened, and the relationship to “out there” has changed. The title is mine, and came with the initial fantasy; I liked the sound of it, its rhythm and internal rhyme. While there is no quotation in the work, its generative image must owe something to Ives (both the *Unanswered Question* and the second string quartet). The reference was cryptomnesiac on my part, but affectionate nonetheless.

--Andrew Waggoner