

## COMPOSER'S NOTES

### 4 LAUDS

*4 Lauds*, a collection of solo violin pieces written at different times, intend to express gratitude to some of the musicians whose friendship has meant so much to me: Aaron Copland, Roger Sessions, Goffredo Petrassi, Robert Mann, Ole Bøhn and Rolf Schulte.

1. Statement – Remembering Aaron
2. Riconoscenza per Goffredo Petrassi
3. Rhapsodic Musings
4. Fantasy – Remembering Roger

### STATEMENT – REMEMBERING AARON

*Statement – Remembering Aaron* is the first of several *Lauds* of friends of past years for solo violin. This one recalls Aaron Copland whose orchestral *Statements* has always interested me and includes ideas from his *Ukelele Serenade* and other works. It also suggests the warmth and generosity and nobility that meant so much to me. This solo was commissioned by the violinist Ole Bøhn and was composed in February 1999.

### RICONOSCENZA PER GOFFREDO PETRASSI

*Riconoscenza per Goffredo Petrassi*, for solo violin, was composed for the 1984 Festival Pontino celebrating the 80th birthday of Petrassi, Italy's foremost living composer. It was first performed at a festival concert in the medieval refectory of the Abbey of Fossanova, Priverno, Italy, by Georg Mönch on June 15, 1984.

### RHAPSODIC MUSINGS

*Rhapsodic Musings* is a present to Robert Mann on his 80th birthday. It is a small tribute to his extraordinarily devoted advocacy of contemporary music. As is well-known, with the other members of the Juilliard Quartet, he gave such pioneering and commanding performances of quartets by Bartók, Schoenberg and many others including my own that many of these works became part of the performers' repertory. His teaching and other activities brought these scores to the attention of students and the public. Using his initials R.M. in the title of this short violin solo and in its main motive—re, mi (D,E)—this piece tries to suggest some of his remarkable human and artistic qualities. It was composed in June 2000, in Southbury, Connecticut.

### FANTASY – REMEMBERING ROGER

Deeply convinced of the power of music and his own compositional direction, Roger Sessions was one of the most interesting and widely cultivated persons I have known. His music always impressed me, so when he kindly offered to look over some of my early scores, I was greatly flattered. However, I never studied with him. When we were composers-in-residence in Berlin in 1964, I came to appreciate how his convictions were combined with charm and humor. In this *Fantasy* for solo violin, written in April 1999 for Rolf Schulte, I have tried to honor Sessions in my own way.