

AUGUSTA READ THOMAS

INCANTATION

for solo violin

Incantation (1995) for solo violin is one of the earliest works by Augusta Read Thomas that has not been withdrawn by the composer. Her enthusiasm for the violin is exhibited in this piece and in a number of other works, including *Spirit Musings* for solo violin and chamber orchestra and *Rumi Settings* for violin and cello.

The composer observes: "*Incantation* was composed for Cathryn Tait, who, at the time, was dying of cancer. Tait presented the premiere performance, beautifully, shortly before her death, in a very touching recital in Rochester, NY, on 18 November 1995.

"The five-minute work celebrates Tait's generosity of spirit. The music sings out, with beauty and grace, always with a richness and elegance. Falling loosely into an ABA form, it ends as it were, on a question, with a major seventh hanging in the air, unresolved."

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