

**The Cresset Stone** was composed during December 1993, in response to a commission by the Presteigne Festival, director George Vass, with funds from the Welsh Arts Council and Amadeus Stringed Instruments.

First performance: September 2, 1994, Krzysztof Smietana, at the Presteigne Festival.

A cresset stone is a medieval method of lighting — a hollowed-out stone, filled with oil, with a lighted wick. Near the composer's home in Ferndale, Wales, the ancient cathedral at Brecon contains a remarkable example of such a stone. It was this stone, in its stone cathedral context, which directly inspired the composition. **The Cresset Stone** is a meditation on stone and light which begins and ends in stillness. The inner sections contain references to the final *Kyrie* of an eleventh-century Gregorian chant.

Duration: 9 minutes