

The Pleiades

by Robert Erickson

PROGRAM NOTE

The violin writing is largely a result of close collaboration with János Négyesy, who has significantly extended modern violin technique. The second part of the piece uses a violin with a different tuning or scordatura. If the performance is staged, an assistant fine tunes each instrument before the quick exchanges.

Ever since I was ten years old and first heard the remarkable passages in Bazzini's dance of the goblins, I have been fascinated by mixed left and right hand pizzicato, and certain passages in THE PLEIADES are rich in such sounds, often in close proximity to bowed sounds, of which a wide variety is also used.

The title refers to the well known constellation of stars — a formation carrying in its orbit a multitude of stories, associations and myths.

ROBERT ERICKSON

Composed in 1981