

GATHERING TOGETHER: PROGRAM NOTES

The title *GATHERING TOGETHER* is taken from the poem, 'The People Gathering Together' by my friend, Patricia Goedicke. Her poem addresses a bitter-sweet subject—attempted connections between peoples all over the world.

GATHERING TOGETHER, a musical response to her poem, is a single movement work that is sub-divided into four major sections. Section one, introduces a driving metrically diversified rhythmic strata. Section Two superimposes a long lyrical theme over variations in the original rhythmic strata. Section three and four attempt reconciliation between materials from the first two sections.

GATHERING TOGETHER, originally conceived as a chamber orchestra work, was composed for Keith Williams and The Music Ensemble. It was premiered at Saint John's Smith Square in London in 1985. Since then the work has been performed by many prestigious chamber orchestras throughout the United States and Europe and has received several awards. In 1995-96, I "re-composed" it for full orchestra and recorded it with the Czech Radio Symphony. That recording is available on the MMC Label. For further information visit www.rogerbriggs.com.