1978

Petroglyph for Strings

Michael Mauldin

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MICHAEL MAULDIN

Petroglyph
for Strings
“Petroglyph for Strings” won a composition contest sponsored by the Chamber Orchestra of Albuquerque, which premiered the piece in 1978, under the direction of David Oberg. Oberg and the COA recorded it in 1980 for an Opus One record. It has since been recorded under his direction by the Polish National Radio Orchestra for an Opus One CD.

In November, 1981, the AMERICAN RECORD GUIDE wrote, “Mauldin’s ‘Petroglyph’ is a work of more than passing interest. His musical style is neither shocking nor dissonant. It is clearly contemporary writing with a ‘bite’ to it, but the harmonies are near conventional and the style quite accessible. It is a good example of wellcrafted music of our time, which can speak to us without shouting.”

The piece was inspired by the evocative rock-drawings inscribed throughout the southwestern United States by the ancestors of the Pueblo Indians. I’ve always been fascinated by the drawings and their apparent mixture of the sacred and the mundane. But I wrote this piece because I was deeply moved by the glyphs at an unexcavated Anasazi city on San Juan Mesa in the Jemez Mountains of New Mexico.
PETROGLYPH

Michael Mauldin

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