1989

Shaman's Power-Song

Michael Mauldin

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MICHAEL MAULDIN

SHAMAN’S POWER-SONG
~ for the Santa Fe Trio ~
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This piece was written for the “Santa Fe Trio”: Donna McRae, soprano; Frank Bowen, flute; and Rita Angel, piano. Bowen passed away before a premiere could be mounted. The first performance was given by soprano Donna McRae, flutist Gwen Powell and pianist Arlette Felberg in Corrales, NM in 1998.

My close friend, poet Robert Seufert, wrote, “I too am a Native-born American and claim as my birthright the meaning of this continent. Only when I understand it in my bones, and further back than the arrival of Columbus, can I hope to be no longer a European transplant on these shores, but an American.” I think Bob found some of that meaning when he wrote “Shaman’s Power-Song.” He “got inside the bones” of an American Indian Shaman—perhaps an Anasazi—at the moment of calling on the powers that are needed to heal and to serve as a spiritual leader. The multi-metric swirling of the energy of these powers in the flute and the piano contrasts with the earthy steadiness of the singer.

Swallow on my right shoulder, eagle on my left.
I am brother to the four strong winds.

Mother Moon bathes me. Father Sun licks me dry.
I ride the backs of four strong winds into a beckoning sky.
I ride the backs of four strong winds into a thundering sky.


Michael Mauldin
http://www.mmauldin.com

Duration: 5:18
Swallow on my left.

(right shoulder,

Swallow on my right shoulder,

Eagle on my left.

Swallow on my left.
I am brother to the four strong winds.
Swallow on my right shoulder,
eagle on my
I am brother to the four strong winds.
Mo-

- ther Moon bathes me. Fa - ther

Sun licks me dry.
ride the backs of four strong winds

in-to a beck-on-ing sky.
Sun licks me dry.

ride the backs of four strong winds into a poco a poco cresc.

thundering sky.
Swallow on my right shoulder,
I am brother to the four strong winds.
I am one with the earth!
Flute - 2

mf

f

$\Rightarrow$mf

mp

MAST

f

ff

p

mp

$p >$p

mp

$\Rightarrow$p

mp

$p >$p

mp