



BRIAN HOLMES was born in Washington D.C. on August 6, 1946. He graduated from Pomona College and earned a PhD in experimental low temperature physics from Boston University. He is now (2003) a professor of Physics at San Jose State University in San Jose, California, and is active as a free-lance horn player, performing with the San Jose Symphony and Opera San Jose.

While in Boston, Holmes studied horn with Harry Shapiro and played in the Cambridge Symphonic Brass Quintet. Many of his arrangements for brass and chorus have been performed and recorded by Revels, Inc. One such arrangement, "Strike Up Your Instruments of Joy," is published by Thorpe as part of the Revels Choral Series (No. 392-03032).

As a composer, Holmes often writes for solo voice and chorus. His involvement with Revels sparked an interest in setting texts related to Christmas. Five Medieval Songs and Carols for women's chorus, Five Medieval Carols for mixed voices, Now is the Time for baritone, chorus, brass and timpani, and the one-act Christmas opera *One Shepherd Stayed Behind* (with words co-written with his father, Fenwicke Holmes) all reflect this interest.

Another choral work for Christmas that shows Holmes natural gift for melody, coupled with fine compositional technique, is the prize-winning carol "I Saw a Fair Maiden" for unaccompanied mixed voices (Thorpe No. 392-03053).

Brian Holmes has also composed numerous songs, song cycles, choral works and instrumental works, including a concerto for toy piano and orchestra. Several works have been recorded by the Peninsula Women's Chorus and by the Stanford University Chorale.

Holmes interests in physics and music overlap. He does research on the physics of musical instruments and has occasionally composed music related to science. His "Updike's Science," for example, is a set of six songs about science, composed to humorous poems of John Updike. He has also lectured on the physics of musical instruments at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Oberlin College, Cornell University, Brown University, Boston University, Boston College, Pomona College, the American Association of Physics Teachers, the American Physical Society, and the Acoustical Society of America.



PHOTO CREDIT: WILLIAM ABRAMOWICZ

JANE KENYON (1947-1995) was born in Ann Arbor, Michigan. While attending the University of Michigan, she took a class with poet Donald Hall (b. 1928). They married in 1972 and moved three years later to Hall's family farm on Eagle Pond in Wilmot, New Hampshire. Jane Kenyon's death from leukemia is the focus of Donald Hall's book *Without*.

The images in "Let Evening Come" are drawn from the New England farm and landscape that gave depth and resonance to many of Kenyon's poems. The poem builds its mood of resignation in many ways: in its motion from afternoon to night; by its dozen repetitions of the word "let"; though its accumulation of poignantly observed detail. Although it seems to anticipate Kenyon's untimely death, the poem was actually written before her diagnosis. Indeed, though the couple feared that Donald Hall would die of cancer, he recovered, and the disease claimed Kenyon instead.

Her books are *From Room to Room*, *The Boat of Quiet Hours*, *Let Evening Come* (published in 1990), and *Constance*. A posthumous collection, including additional verse, is *Otherwise: New and Selected Poems*. She also translated the poetry of Anna Akhmatova. Some prose writing and miscellanea are reprinted in *A Hundred White Daffodils*.

"Let Evening Come" copyright 1996 by the Estate of Jane Kenyon. Reprinted from *Otherwise: New & Selected Poems* with the permission of the Estate of Jane Kenyon and Graywolf Press, Saint Paul, Minnesota. All rights reserved.

Brian Holmes' setting of "Let Evening Come" was completed in February, 1995, in a version for women's chorus. The first performance, by the Cambridge Chorale of Arlington, Massachusetts, Kenneth Seitz, conductor, was in May of that year, just weeks after Kenyon's death. This version, for mixed chorus, was written in 1998. A finalist in the 1998 Ithaca College Choral Composition Contest, it was premiered by the Waterloo High School Varsity Ensemble, conducted by Susan Avery, at Ithaca College in November, 1998.

The original version for SSAA voices and piano is also available (Thorpe No. 392-03080).