Programme note

**Dreams of Quetzalcoatl For Chamber Orchestra (1994)**

**Douglas Finch**

*Dreams of Quetzalcoatl* was written for the Thunder Bay Symphony Orchestra Composers’ Workshop in April, 1994, and premiered by the orchestra on April 19th, 1994. It was a transcription of a piece originally written for solo guitar.

*Quetzalcóatl* is the ancient Mexican god, part tail feather of the quetzal bird and part snake (*coatl*), who in later adaptations of the myth turned into the planet Venus after being killed. The following texts introduce the score:

“Skirt-of-Stars Light-of-Day

Lord-drawn-to the-Water Lord-Issuing-Forth

Who-Firms-the-Earth Who-Tills-the-Earth

Quetzalcoatl Titlacahuan were their names.”

 (codex Chimalpopocatl)

“My fragrant songs, my flowers,

Fall like strewn petals.

I weep as I speak, I cry to my soul:

Would that I might see the song root,

Would that I might transplant it,

Would that it might grow on earth when it comes.”

 (Cantares Mexicanes)

From *Quetzalcoatl, Four Masterpieces of American Indian Literature,* translated by John Bierhorst

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