

PROGRAM NOTES: “An Exaltation of Larks”

Definitions:

Larks-any of numerous singing birds

Exaltation-an act of exalting; the state of being exalted; an excessively intensified sense of well-being, power, importance; an increase in degree or intensity

Thoughts:

The first time someone told me that a collection of Larks is called an “Exaltation”, I immediately thought, “What a sound an exaltation of larks must make!” This prompted my imagination to run wild in a composerly-fashion, thinking of thousands of birds flying and singing wildly, with extraordinary energy and intensity. Not to mention the wonderful play on words that is implied with “exaltation”. How to capture the beauty of the idea of exalting and singing? A string quartet seemed perfect!

“An Exaltation of Larks” was commissioned in 2005 for the Tokyo String Quartet, by the Arizona Friends of Chamber Music and sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. Charles M. Peters.

--Jennifer Higdon