

PROGRAM NOTES: "Sing, Sing"

"Sing, Sing" was started during a horrendous heat wave in the middle of a Philadelphia July. I was actually composing another piece at the time, but when I sat down to write, this jaunty little tune kept popping into my head. Along with this tune came the words, "the snow is falling, it covers the ground". At the time, I laughed at this, as the weather was so sweltering that it seemed crazy to have such a phrase running in my head, but the music and the words were so insistent, that I started writing them down. I ended up working on it for several hours. At the end of the day, I set it aside, thinking that I'd eventually get back to it. Later in the summer, while I was in Atlanta for the National Flute Convention, I picked up a pad of paper at the hotel where I was staying and started singing this tune to myself and jotting down more text. Before long, I had the text written out on about 5 pieces of Atlanta Hilton stationery. When October rolled around, David Hayes asked me about a piece for the December concert. I went back to look for my musical sketches, only to find they had somehow been misplaced. The tune was still bouncing so loudly in my head that I was able to start over and begin writing the thing anew. It took about a week to complete and was actually a blast to write (in fact, I wish all music came this easily). I had the constant feeling, throughout the compositional process, of a sled skidding along a path of snow, and I wanted very much to convey the sense of breathless joy and celebration of good tidings during the season.

--Jennifer Higdon