

New Jersey Camp Meeting

A Bloomfield Sabbath

FOR FLUTE (DOUBLING PICCOLO) AND PIANO (2005)

Dedicated to my dear wife Jan

PAUL MACK SOMERS

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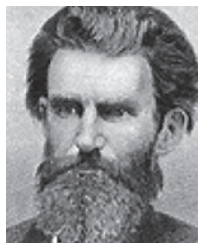
New Jersey Camp Meeting A Bloomfield Sabbath

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PROGRAM NOTES

In 2005 my wife Janet was near completion of her M.A in flute performance at Montclair State University in New Jersey. For her second recital she had decided to do flute music by New Jersey composers. We had only found works from the 20th and 21st centuries even though we had searched for 19th century pieces.



So I decided to take two 19th century composers associated with New Jersey and combine them. The older was William Batchelder Bradbury (1816-1868), the composer of many still famous hymn-tunes, perhaps the best-known being *Jesus Loves Me*. Many of his tunes were popular in camp meetings. He lived in Montclair, NJ, and has a large monument in the Bloomfield Cemetery.



The more recent composer was Charles Ives (1874-1954), who for a year served as organist in Bloomfield's Presbyterian Church on the Green, beginning the very day he graduated from Yale in 1898. He certainly knew the hymn-tunes of Bradbury.

Fragments of Bradbury tunes are heard against a sound wash similar to that often used by Ives. I imagine the spirits of Bradbury and Ives meeting and appearing in an Ivesian evocation.

New Jersey Camp Meeting – a Bloomfield Sabbath has been recorded by Janet Somers, flute, and Norma Meyer, piano, available on the CD “Sonatas and More”, Maurice River Press (MRP1502) distributed worldwide by Theodore Presser Company.

PAUL MACK SOMERS (b. 1942) studied composition with Warren Benson and George Andrix at Ithaca College School of Music, and participated in master classes with Norman Dello Joio under a Ford Foundation Grant. Somers has composed theatric, vocal, choral, chamber, and orchestral music. His music has been performed in Lincoln Center, Weill Hall in Carnegie Hall, and Ars Vitalis.

Commissioners include the Bay Atlantic Symphony, Colonial Symphony, Summit Chorale, Palisades Virtuosi, Jorge Ávila, Brett Deubner, Ellen Zoë Hassman, Ron Levy, Michiko Otaki, and the Jacques Cousteau Center for Estuarine Research for a young audience work related to the ecology of the Delaware Bay. He has also composed various solo instrumental works over the years, also available on the CD “Sonatas and More”. He and his wife Janet live along the Maurice River near Mauricetown, New Jersey.

New Jersey Campmeeting

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Duration: c. 5'35"

A Bloomfield Sabbath

for Flute (doubling Piccolo) and Piano

Using Hymn Tunes by
WILLIAM BATCHELDER BRADBURY

PAUL MACK SOMERS

Dreamscape ♩ = 48

Flute (Piccolo) *pp* (Flute)

Piano *ppp* L.H. over

una corda
use pedal throughout to create sound-wash

5

10

pp

8

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Sost. ped.

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