

CITIES

CITIES, a four movement composition for symphony orchestra, was written between June 16 and October 26, 1983 under an Individual Artist Fellowship from the Alabama State Council on the Arts and Humanities with the assistance of the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency. The work, approximately twenty minutes in length, was inspired by Alabama's four major cities. The first movement, A BAY CITY (Mobile), opens the work depicting the turbulence of the waters of Mobile Bay on a grey and cloudy day. Eventually sunlight breaks through only to be masked by a windy storm. There is a hint of Mardis Gras after which the turbulence of the opening returns to close out the movement.

The second movement, A CITY OF BIRDS AND FLIGHT (Montgomery), follows without a break. Woodwinds are heard in an array of bird calls recalling those heard along the Alabama River as it passes through Montgomery. We also hear airplane sounds from muted trombones reminding us that it was at Maxwell Air Force Base that the Wright brothers set up the first flying school during the early days of the age of flight.

AN INDUSTRIAL CITY (Birmingham), the third movement, is scored for brass and percussion and depicts the busy atmosphere of the steel industry of this, Alabama's largest, city.

Without a break we proceed to the final movement, A MOUNTAIN CITY (Huntsville). The open sounds of this movement are symbolic of the mountains surrounding this city and its spacious quality reminds us of Huntsville's vast contribution to the space age.

The work is scored for standard string complement, woodwinds in 3,3,3,3, brass in 4,3,3,1, timpani, two percussionists, piano/celesta and harp.