

The Emerald Suite

By

Aldo Rafael Forte

The Emerald Suite is dedicated to and commissioned by Robert Hansbrough and The College of Saint Rose. It is about eight minutes in length and cast in three movements.

The first movement, *I. Saint Patrick and the Snakes*, is the tense movement of the set. Even though there are no snakes in Ireland, the stories of St. Patrick and the snakes are more of a metaphor for his bringing Christianity to Ireland and driving out the pagan religions. Serpents were often symbols for these pagan religions. There is often a dialogue between highs and lows symbolizing St. Patrick and the snakes. The music is at times ominous and other times triumphant.

II. By the Glen is the slow and expressive movement of the piece. It features an Alto Sax solo. Lush harmonies compete with tonal pyramids. The music is indicative of the many glens in Ireland.

The work ends with a stylized *III. Gigue*, a typical Irish dance which goes through a variety of harmonic moods. It is lively music throughout.

I would like to thank Robert Hansbrough and the College of Saint Rose Wind Ensemble for making this work come to life in such a wonderful way.

Aldo Rafael Forte

Composer

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