

Four Preludes of the River is an exploration of writing for the piano in four different ways. The titles are inspired by a poem by Allen Grossman, but are not programmatically set to that poem. There are aspects of the poetic imagery that reflect my thoughts while writing the pieces, which I have shown in my choices for the nature-like movement titles.

The first prelude, *Stone on stone*, begins and ends with a fanfare. In between the fanfare statements is an exploration of polytonality with the right-hand squarely in D Major and the left-hand in F# Major, giving (a rather consonant) clashing sound of two stones against one another.

*Take the iris* is a virtuosic piece which displays the pianist's independence of hands. The left hand's low register ostinato acts as a frozen element while the right hand plays a theme in various registers and in retrograde toward the end.

*I will give you rain* was written from an orchestral standpoint. There are four main motives that cover the full spectrum of the keyboard. In order to make these ideas and textures clear to the pianist, the piece had to be written in four staves.

As a final reflection to all of the preludes, *The midnight garden* is a chorale-like meditation written in the lower register. This movement is a complete contrast to the other three in character, however it is reminiscent of their sonorities.

-S.J.

Duration: 8 minutes