

# PETER WARE

Hibiscus on the Water

*Piano*

Edited by Peter Ware



**Acoma Company**

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**HIBISCUS ON THE WATER** was inspired by the beautiful Hibiscus flower that grow so plentifully along the banks of the Piscataway River. In a fantasy variation form, the composer captures this scenic landscape with flowing lyrical melodies and an undulating accompaniment. The following poem by Agnes Ware depicts the delicacy of the hibiscus.

The **Pedal** may be used to enhance the sound, while always retaining clarity and playfulness. In sections where the pedal is indicated to be held down, variation in pedal depth may be used. Listen carefully to avoiding any abrupt or premature termination of rich sonorities sustaining from the preceding bars.

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#### HIBISCUS BY PISCATAWAY

Beautiful and brief  
Is your blooming above  
Our late summer leaf . . .

Sudden as descent of  
White startled dove  
Your wonder was sent . . .

At dawn you were not seen  
Now you're splashed on marsh  
Where only green has been . . .

Are you butterflies  
Immobilized in flight  
Drifting from our skies . . .

Frail as paper boat  
Are you musical notes  
Dropped on creek to float . . .

Are you pastel dreams  
And is our colored marsh  
Not the grass it seems . . .

Soon you're borne away  
Reflected in streams  
Of our Piscataway . . .

Beautiful and brief  
Is your stay above  
The late summer leaf . . .

- A. Ware

**PETER WARE** (May 4, 1951) has fashioned a melodic and harmonic vocabulary both distinctive and attractive. Frequently drawing titles from North American landscapes, Ware seeks to climb inside his sources creating an organic rather than narrative musical style. Expressionistic with driving rhythm and intense dissonance, his music evolves through long-breathed melodies, spun out almost endlessly in a free-flowing contrapuntal texture. Ware's musical structures develop naturally from motivic cells that seem to grow and mutate in an evolutionary sense. Fascinating in its defiance of analysis, the music emerges from a primitive sense and communicates directly with the listener on a purely spiritual level. For this reason, its meaning can be interpreted and understood emotionally, but the message is encoded outside the realm of language.

Ware's early musical training was in the church choir and under the piano tutelage of Florence Robertson in Beethoven's lineage. He studied composition at Virginia Commonwealth University, the University of Cincinnati and Yale University. His principal teachers include Krzysztof Penderecki, Scott Huston, Roman Haubenstock-Ramati and Toru Takemitsu.

While many composers claim inspiration from the works and spirit of Beethoven, Ware's orchestra music is large in gesture with the heroic always surfacing and a sense of undeniable majesty. It communicates the universal awe, a speechlessness that can only be captured in the language of tone. In the end, the process is clearly recognizable as an extremely personal testimonial: the individual artist struggling for context in the world, and through the workings out of their art, championing and empowering themselves with spirit transcending.

Ware attracts numerous commissions with grants from the Canada Council, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Ontario Arts Council and the Ohio Arts Council. He has attracted commissions and performances from ensembles such as the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, Saskatoon Symphony's Composer-of-the-Season, Iceland Symphony Orchestra, Regina Symphony, Orchestra London Canada, Virginia Symphony, Hamilton Philharmonic, Mississauga Symphony Orchestra and the Canadian Chamber Ensemble/Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony, Richmond Symphony, Queen's Chamber Orchestra, National Chamber Orchestra, and Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra. He has received composition prizes from the Minnesota Composers Forum, St. Louis New Music Circle, University of Cincinnati, Pi Kappa Lambda Music Honor Society, Virginia Commonwealth University and Yale University. For more information on the composer, and a catalogue of his works and recordings may be obtained at his web site <http://www.PeterWare.com>

# The Hibiscus On The Water

Peter Ware

(1951 - )

Andante cantabile espressivo (♩ = ca. 88)

*mp*

*pp*

*cresc.*

*dim.*

*p*

*dim.*

*rit.*

*a tempo*

*mf*

*mp*

14

*cresc.* *dim.* *cresc.*

ped. ped. ped. ped. ped.

18

*f* *dim.* *p* *cresc.*

*p dim.*

ped. ped. ped.

22

*f*

M.D. M.S.

ped. ped. ped. ped.

26

*cresc.*

*simile*

ped. ped. ped.

"Ware's pungent, poignant **Nakina** suite." -Los Angeles Times

"Romantic, lyrical and impressionistic all at once, the pieces have a beautiful natural pianism" -Hamilton Spectator

"Ware offers melodic content that is quite strong, **Totentanz** a fascinating score with a motoric rhythm that drives the work forward."  
-Fanfare

"Ware's style, inspired by North America's landscape and Indian heritage, has been described as 'paintings in sound.' **Chama** is exactly that. It evoked exotic imagery which produced a blend both surreal and dramatic." - Kitchener Waterloo Record

"Night Rainbow finds the piano glistening as the clarinet and viola intone mysterious chants. Time is virtually suspended in Ware's pieces, which are mesmerizing in effect." -Akron Beacon Journal

"**Chama** began with a long lustrous flute solo, gradually growing more knotty." - New York Times

Chama "the Eagle and the Plumed Serpent" "Played properly this music will dazzle an audience and thrill the players." -Soundboard

"It's (Chama "the Eagle and the Plumed Serpent) slow unfolding course, in predominantly long violin phrases, has a cobra-like power to hypnotise." - Classical Guitar

"The Night Rainbow, a tremendously appealing work for clarinet, viola and piano..." -Richmond News Leader

## PETER WARE: MUSIC FOR PIANO

### **CHAMA "The Eagle and the Plumed Serpent" Violin or Flute and Piano 14' Peter Ware**

This evocative work was inspired by the writings of Carlos Castaneda. In a variation form, it opens and closes with an extensive solo (vln/fl.) of meditative character. Exotic scales along with portamento convey a primitive, near eastern quality. Score & Part Violin and Piano AE314 \$15.98

### **ELEGIE UND TOTENTANZ Piano 9' Peter Ware**

The Elegie, shifting between monophonic and polyphonic two part dialog, imparts a sacred quality similar to Gregorian chant. Accompaniment chords serve as quiet answers to the phrases. The Totentanz is a dance of the body after death and is the last play of the muscles. In moderate triple meter, Totentanz features staccato articulations that give it a perky and playful character. Opening with a rhythmic motive of four eighth notes, this motive is subsequently marked with an embellished grace note, and spun out in a Baroque fashion. This "single affection" pervades the entire fabric. Use of a motor rhythm sustains a great sense of momentum, until the ending where it winds down majestically. 6 p. AEO429 \$6.98

### **THE HIBISCUS ON THE WATER Piano 6' Peter Ware**

Inspired by the delicate flowers that grow so plentifully along the riverbanks of the Piscataway creek in Virginia as illustrated by the poem Hibiscus by Piscataway by Agnes Ware. This fantasy variation flows simply and unpretentiously with a lyrical melody and undulating accompaniment. The Hibiscus on the Water is published in the Conservatory of Canada's New Millennium Series. It is part of the grade nine piano requirements and is published in the Grade Nine New Millennium Piano Series by Waterloo Music. Score 5 p. AEO691 \$5.98

### **PISCATAWAY "On Looking Deeper into the Water" Piano solo 12' Peter Ware**

Utilizing the extreme ranges of the piano in a virtuoso display, this piece is named after the Piscataway river in Virginia. Colourful flourishes contrast with long-breathed melodies; and although metered, the rhythm is perceived as free, symbolic of the river's rapid current and still eddies. As numerous sustained trills and tremolos shimmer on, dynamic balance and endurance are essential. Score 15 p. AE284 \$15.98

### **THE NIGHT RAINBOW Clarinet, Viola and Piano 11' Peter Ware**

A Fantasy-Variation, this piece was inspired by the moonbow at Cumberland Falls in Kentucky. Enchanting melodies of the clarinet and viola weave a texture of atmospheric awe, deliberate and unhurried. The piano, frozen in its higher register, contrasts with a crystallized tone, creating a sense of starkness and desolation. 10 p. Score & Parts AE713 \$14.98

### **LONDON STRING TRIO Violin, Cello and Piano 22' Peter Ware**

The first movement uses multiple tempos and opens with a violin and piano duet. When the cello enters, much dialogue and jest ensues. The harmonic and melodic material is derived from the symmetrical chords of the violin and piano duet. This material is transformed and developed, at times humorously, throughout the movement. The second movement is an Elegy, with plaintive sigh motives, tremolos and grace notes to nothing. It is fluid and unhurried, weaving pure lyric poetry. The Totentanz follows with the cello starting the playful and sinister dance of death. The trio closes with a dramatic and driving finale. 47 p. score Violin, Cello and Piano AE381 \$47.98

Visit Acoma Company's website to listen to MP3 excerpts from CDs and view sample scores. <http://ACOMA-Co.com>

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