

## **Music Alive: New Partnerships**

A Residency Program of  
Meet The Composer and the League of American Orchestras

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### **Road Ranger Cowboy (2008)**

Ruby Fulton

Program Notes

*Road Ranger Cowboy* is an imaginary take on the larger-than-life perspective of a cowboy whom I encountered in real life at a truck stop in Waterloo, Iowa. He was a thin, elderly man with long white hair, dressed from head to toe in ornate western cowboy clothing, complete with a ten-gallon hat and a shining set of spurs. Since we were in a fairly urban area, just off a busy interstate, with no horses in sight, I wondered why he might be wearing such a costume, and I invented the narcissistic character of the Road Ranger Cowboy. I researched the effect which severe narcissism has on the processes in the brain, and learned that the narcissistic mind blocks out the majority of sensory input, filtering out everything except the information which bolsters his or her fantastical self-image. My piece begins with a simple country western tune, which represents a "normal" view of life. Gradually, the music is pulled apart and distorted, as only a few pitches are selected by the cowboy's narcissistic system. Although the tune is in A Major, the cowboy's filter eventually plucks out the notes of a B-Flat Major scale, just in time for a grandiose version of the tune, which is reality as seen through the cowboy's perspective. The piece ends with a solo flute, representing the loneliness of this dystopian American hero.

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To inquire about a residency, please contact:  
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