

Music Alive: New Partnerships

A Residency Program of

Meet The Composer and the League of American Orchestras

Beneath This Stone (2007)

Kristin Kuster

Program Notes

Beneath This Stone was commissioned by the Annapolis Symphony Orchestra for the Annapolis Charter 300 Young Composers Competition, with world premiere performances 21-22 March, 2008, under the baton of José-Luis Novo. Before beginning this piece, I visited Annapolis in early July 2007. While I was there, I felt a strong juxtaposition of layers of energy: there seems to be a surface level of the every-day bustle, a middle-ground rooted in the historical buildings that have stood since Annapolis' beginnings, all of which is connected to the surrounding water with a slow rhythm that has been present even before people settled on the shore. The simultaneous activity and rhythms of the people and the place were very striking to me. The feel of the city seems to convey the past, present, and future at once.

The music of *Beneath This Stone* captures the ebb and flow between the permanence and transience of historical renewal. The title comes from a plaque on a historical marker in Market Square with the title "History Stone." The plaque explains that the granite block to which it is attached was the cornerstone of a proposed fountain dedicated on the 200th Anniversary of the Annapolis City Charter in 1908. The small monument moved me because of the contrast between the heaviness of the stone and (in my imagination) tile lightness of the fountain which had never been built. That simple contrast of a living history, presented on a marker from a previous celebration of the city's charter, served as the impetus for *Beneath This Stone*. Annapolis has many monuments, historical buildings, memories of significant events, and plans that look forward for development in the coming years; and it is my hope that my new piece *Beneath This Stone* can serve as a living musical monument and tribute to Annapolis' rich past, present, and future.

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To inquire about a residency, please contact:
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