

ROBERT SIROTA

COMPOSER

PROGRAM NOTES

A SINNER'S DIARY

Program note by Robert Sirota:

A Sinner's Diary is a rather unusual work in that it is a confessional piece. It started, innocently enough, as a series of what amounted to journal entries: brief pieces, each of which reflected a sense of my inner life on a given day. These evolved into a kind of conversation between my inner demons and the angels of my better nature. This duality reflects the particular pulls and tugs of the year in which it was written— a year that included a number of personal crises as well as abundant grace.

The nine movements of *A Sinner's Diary* are arranged as a sort of surreal liturgy, including movements whose titles are taken from rubrics in the Episcopal Book of Common Prayer. (*Thanksgivings may follow; Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others; Here may be sung a hymn or anthem*) It may be useful to the listener to know that the sins I am most susceptible to are Pride and Envy.