

ROBERT SIROTA

COMPOSER

PROGRAM NOTES

EASTER CANTICLES (1993)

Program note by Robert Sirota:

Composed in 1993, *Easter Canticles* was commissioned by the cellist Norman Fischer, and received its premiere that year at Yale's Dwight Chapel, with Vicki and Norman as the performers. The music is designed as a triptych after an iconostasis of the Orthodox Church. The three panels are meditations on scenes from the Passion of Jesus Christ: his prayerful agony in the Garden of Gethsemane, his crucifixion and resurrection. The Crucifixion movement incorporates the brutality of the hammering of the nails into Christ's hands. The conclusion of Resurrection evokes the image of Christ's hovering presence.