

ROBERT SIROTA

COMPOSER

PROGRAM NOTES

CUMMINGTON JUNCTION

Program note by Robert Sirota:

Cummington Junction was commissioned by Greenwood Music Camp, an extraordinary chamber music camp that has produced such musical luminaries as pianist Gilbert Kalish and cellist Joel Krosnick. The camp ends each summer with a series of marathon concerts, one of which is an orchestra performance. It is the custom to annually commission a new work for this concert, and in 1998 I was asked to write the piece.

Cummington, Massachusetts, where Greenwood is located, is a gorgeous rural New England village in the northeast Berkshires between Pittsfield and Northampton. It consists of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century homes, barns and public buildings, in a hilly setting dotted with livestock. The only thing missing in this idyll is a little train chugging over the hills. *Cummington Junction* provides that imaginary train.