



The Gift

for Solo Flute, or Flute and Piano
by Rhonda Larson

Performance Notes

As with most of my compositions, "The Gift" was written initially for Solo Flute, with no accompaniment necessary due to the built-in harmony. However, I later added the piano accompaniment, offering more versatility to the music. Feel free to perform it either way, according to your concert situation and personal preference. Keep in mind that the flute part is like a Bluegrass fiddle part, with the de-emphasized notes played as a 'pizzicato'. Be sure you make a distinction between the melody and harmony, separating the two perspectives in your playing style.

Program Notes

The innocent and straight-forward theme of "The Gift" came to me while hiking in the White Mountains of New Hampshire. I was on the Appalachian trail, and the melody that began to emerge as I hiked struck me as having an "Appalachian" sound to it. It also served to keep time with my pace. Later, when off the mountain and attempting to develop the music further, it began to reveal itself as a somewhat Bluegrass fiddle style. Pure joy, with hints of submerged mystery here and there. It earned the title, "The Gift", as I completed the piece in one day, which thus far has happened only this once! It was a Gift from the benevolent Creator, given freely!

---Rhonda
July 2006

**You can hear *The Gift* on Rhonda's CD, *Distant Mirrors*
www.RhondaLarson.com**