Sir Gawain & the Green Knight: A Christmas Legend for violin, trumpet, cello & piano (1979, rev. 2011)
Cheryl Trace, violin; Thaddeus Archer, trumpet; Robert Clemens, cello; Greg Kostraba, piano

5:43  I. Arthur’s Court at Christmas & Hunting Scenes: Fanfare: Allegro, Allegretto

5:37  II. Seduction & Sorcery: Moderato

3:48  III. Gawain’s Journey: March tempo

4:04  IV. Gawain’s Humiliation & Wisdom: Adagio

4:00  V. The Green Knight: Vivo

Guitar Suite: For an Old Friend at Christmas (2011)
Hilary Field, guitar

6:29  I. Moderato, wistfully

4:57  II. Moderato

2:26  III. Lento

Four Carols for baritone & piano
Jose Rubio, baritone; Avedis Manoogian, piano

2:30  I. A Little Child (1984)


A Christmas Ceremony for flute & cello (2011)
Betty Braunstein, flute; Josh Aerie, cello

2:54  I. Prelude: Allegretto

3:23  II. Processional: Allegro moderato

3:00  III. Ceremony: Lento

1:49  IV. Recessional: Allegro moderato

2:21  V. Postlude: Moderato

A Christmas Rondo for string trio (1976, rev. 2011)
Kris Frankenfeld, violin; Belinda Burge, viola; Ellen Shertzer, cello

10:31

Total Playing Time: 72:49

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A Christmas Gift

A Christmas Legend: Sir Gawain and the Green Knight (1979, rev. 2011) I wrote this music as a sort of film score for the story's major scenes. I was aware of the novel's expression, "The Green Knight is a great love and have vivid memories. I wrote this music as a light-hearted and adventuresome piece. Similar to the Christmas Legend, one feels fondness and sentimental mysticism in the character.

The piece does not quote any existing Christmas music, it nevertheless came out sounding Christmas-like, at least to me. Since weddings do, sometimes, take place at Christmas, I settled on the moments within the ceremony: prelude, processional, the ceremony itself, recessional and postlude.

Four Carols for baritone and piano

I wrote these four carols on traditional texts as anthems for church choirs in which I've sung, an long-aware of Randy's preference for introspective, sweetly melancholy music. We want our friends to like the gifts we bring them, so when I finally wrote a guitar suite as a gift for Randy, I tried to give the music those qualities.

Guitar Suite: For an Old Friend at Christmas (2011)

I've been friends since the 1970's. Over many years, Randy pressed me to write music for the guitar, he and his wife used to listen to the radio station, a frequent source of fun and inspiration for me. Here, they are rescored for baritone and piano. As with all time source of fun and inspiration for me. Here, they are rescored for baritone and piano. As with all

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Belinda Burge, violist, is a native of Ithaca, New York, a former member of the

Guitar Suite: For an Old Friend at Christmas (2011)

I wrote this music for a string trio in Mansfield, Ohio, my hometown. That needed a piece they could play for friends who played the flute, the French horn and the harpsichord. At the original commission and during the revisions, the harpsichord would give the piece an antique sound, I chose to look to Medieval literature for the harpsichord. Bill Huggins, a lawyer and amateur violinist in Columbus, OH, commissioned me to write a string suite for an ensemble consisting of the flute, the French horn and the harpsichord. As

I finally re-scored it for piano trio plus trumpet, an ensemble much easier to assemble.

A Christmas Rondo for string trio (1976, rev. 2011)

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