

## Songer, L. A: Angel Falls

### *Angel Falls*

Lewis A. Songer

b. Evansville, Indiana, 1935

BM - Southern Illinois University, 1958

MM - Indiana University (Roy Harris), 1960

DMA - University of Missouri at Kansas City (John Swanay), 1965

Teaching - Cottey College, Nevada, Mo. 1960-63, Westminster College, New Wilmington, Pa. (1965-1968) East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, Tn. (1968-1999)

Commissions - Johnson City Symphony Orchestra - *Variations on a Ground*

Sacred Heart Cathedral, Sacramento, CA - *Haec Dies*

Southern Illinois University - *Foothills and Mountains*

Member - Pi Kappa Lambda, Phi Mu Alpha

Hobbies - Golf, Road Bicycling, Travel. Art dabbler and collector.

Notes from the composer:

My teacher, Roy Harris, once wrote a piece called *Ode to Consonance*. *Angel Falls* is more an ode to dissonance. Conductor Bob Shoup once said "Your dissonances have purpose." And music critic Sandor Kalay of the *Kansas City Star* wrote that "Songer has a melodic gift." Put these two things together and one gets a melodic dissonance with a definite key center.

Some harmonies used in *Angel Falls* are based on a system developed by the composer in 1961 and that answered the question "What if harmonies were constructed out of unlike intervals?" The initial answer was a system which I called The NOVA system. Later I changed the name to X-Y-Z system and later still expanded the vocabulary to what I called the X-Y-X system. Those interested in further details can contact the composer using [songerla@msn.com](mailto:songerla@msn.com).

I first scored *Angel Falls* for four horns but later decided that a fifth part would allow all players to have some time off the lip. A few notes were added but the piece is essentially the same in both versions.

It should be enough to know that the title does not reference a place or geographic feature. We all have angels.

Lew Songer