



## Program Notes

"Summer Nocturne" for saxophone and quadrasonic tape was composed during the summer of 1990 while I was living in Syracuse, studying electronic music with Mark Drews. The inspiration for the piece came from two distinct sources— one musical, and one autobiographical. My musical inspiration came for "Nacht Musik", a short piano piece from the "Out of Doors Suite" of Béla Bartók. In this aural landscape of a night on the Hungarian plain, Bartók employed tone clusters and other pianistic effects to paint a vivid picture. The four note "bug motive" which occurs throughout "Nocturne" was inspired by these tone clusters.

My extra-musical inspiration for the piece stemmed from the suburban summer nights of my childhood. Back then, when the sun went down, it was as though the world of mugginess and boredom was instantly transformed into something slightly surreal— a dark, somewhat spooky place that beckoned the bold adventurer. Invariably, we all had an urge to do risky, sneaky things. We played games such as "kick the can" or "capture the flag". When lacking organization, we would simply throw rocks at passing cars and run. Those summer evenings never failed to provide entertainment along with a certain benign terror— a kind of exhilaration that is reserved for the young.

