## Memory Quilt

for Flute and Piano

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Clark Winslow Ross

St. John's, 1999

A memory quilt is made by combining pieces of fabric (and/or other materials) that have some significance for the quilter(s). For my musical *Memory Quilt*, I began by laying out a some compositional fragments that I liked but had never used (usually because I had changed my mind and decided to take those pieces in a different direction), and then I experimentally combined them in many ways until I discovered a result that seemed promising. I subsequently composed a significant amount of new material – about 85% of the work – based on the musical fragments to give cohesiveness to the musical structure.

As I was assembling/composing it, I noticed that some of the sections triggered strong and occasionally painful memories that related to the periods in which they were composed, which is how I got the idea for the title. *Memory Quilt*, composed during the summer and fall of 1999, has some unexpected and dramatic changes in mood, but my goal was to make it all hang together in an organic way.

It has been performed by a variety of flute/piano performers, including Michelle Cheramy/Kristina Szutor, Karen Aurell/Barbara Pritchard, Vox 21 (Ireland), and Leslie Newman/Tim Steeves.

## Biography (2007)

Clark Winslow Ross's compositions have been performed in England, Ireland, Israel, the United States, and across Canada by some of Canada's finest musicians, ensembles, and orchestras, including the guitarist Daniel Bolshoy, who has performed Ross's "McGillicuddy's Rant" over 70 times in North America and elsewhere, and who released a CD of the same name in 2008.

Ross was Visiting Composer at Wheaton College, Illinois (2007), Composer-in-Residence at Ireland's Waterford New Music Week (2003), and has won Young Composer's Awards in national competitions by the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra and the Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra. He has also received over 20 commission grants from various funding agencies, including the Canada Council, the CBC, and the Newfoundland and Labrador Arts Council. Clark is the founder and Artistic Director of the Newfound Music Festival, held every February in St. John's, and was a founding member and later President of Continuum, the Toronto-based new-music group. He serves on the national boards of both the Canadian League of Composers and the Canadian Music Centre.

Born in Maracaibo, Venezuela, Clark was raised there and in Caracas (Venezuela), Lima (Peru), Lennoxville (Quebec), New York City, Fort Lee (New Jersey), Brussels (Belgium), and Toronto, where he attended university and later taught at the Royal Conservatory of Music and McMaster University. Upon receiving a Mus.Doc. (composition) degree from the University of Toronto in 1992, he began working at Memorial University's School of Music, where he started the classical guitar programme and is currently an Associate Professor, teaching composition, theory, and electronic music. He was awarded Memorial University's President's Award for Outstanding Research (1999) in recognition of his extensive compositional activities. He is married to Dr. Jennifer Porter (professor of Religious Studies, Memorial University), and has three children (Alexander, (b. 2004), Andrew (b. 2001), and Julia (b. 1990). His interests outside of family and music include baseball, cats, cooking, ethnic food, reading, writing short stories, and invigorating jumping dances.

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