

LINER NOTES FOR THE PERFORMANCE

OF *AMBER* IN 1999.

A M B E R

A memoir of BATAAN

Musical Director: Barbara Wilkinson
Melinda Titus-Fausch, Soprano
Allison Baker, Mezzo-soprano
Richard Rose, Tenor
Graham Clark, Bass
Richard Rose, Composer

Marginal Notes Productions

c/o Richard L. Rose
4 West Howell Avenue
Alexandria, Virginia 22301
Tel: (703) 836-8424
Website: www.marginalnotes.com

RonArt associates Recordings

6805 Bulkley Road
Lorton, Virginia 22079-1120
(703) 541-0149
ronart.assoc@juno.com

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A mber begins as a family get-together on Thanksgiving Day, 1996. General Harry Goss, a ninety-year-old survivor of the Battle of Bataan, is now a semi-invalid in the care of his daughter, Amber. The scene is the family home in Tennessee with a picture-window visible behind the performers, looking down on a mountain road and green river.

As they prepare for the arrival of guests at noon, Harry and his eldest daughter, Jenny, learn for the first time about the crime committed by the two younger children that resulted in their mother's death fifty years earlier, just before the liberation of the Philippines. The scene opens with reminiscences by Colonel Harry Goss, Jr. ("Rusty") and his sisters about growing up in a military family.

about Marginal Notes...

Marginal Notes produces performance works for worthy causes, works that in some way confer grace. Because we are the gifts of survivors, we all seek our own ways to respond -- but not as a recompense. There is no payback for such a gift. There is only attention to be paid, work to be done, and new gifts to send forth. In the centuries-long procession of givers and gifts, all humanity is needed for a complete response. Amber is simply a marginal note written by an onlooker from the edges of ever-disappearing reality, a response to the gift of life, a remembrance of sacrifice, with all its ambiguities, a thanksgiving. -- Richard Rose, composer

A portion of the proceeds from performances and sales of this compact disc will be given to the Soldiers' and Airmen's Home in Washington, D.C. Contact at the Home for additional donations is Kerri Childress, Public Affairs, Soldiers' and Airmen's Home, 3700 North Capitol Street, N.W., Washington, D. C. 20137; Tel: (202) 722-3566.

The cover picture of the leaf and helmet was made by John O'Connor, Art Supervisor in 1999 for Loudoun County Public Schools.