

*Ariadne's Lament* is a piece for eight sopranos. It is the third and final piece of works for eight women's voices inspired by and loosely based on a madrigal by Monteverdi, *Lamento d'Ariana*, using it as a source for pitch and syllables. I have always loved Monteverdi's close harmonies, the tension in them, and I wanted to extend them. *Green Mountain Madrigal* (the first in the cycle) is Monteverdi with the sustaining pedal down. It is slow-paced, with the melody passing from voice to voice, the previous voice sustaining the "dissonant" interval, usually seconds. *Mountain Echoes* (the second in the cycle) uses antiphony and a wider range of dynamics than *Green Mountain Madrigal*. After the initial section, in which the singers pass off the notes in decreasing volume, moving the sound around the space, it becomes more "singerly." The singers sing melodic phrases that are passed from singer to singer in changing configurations. *Ariadne's Lament* is the culmination of the first two pieces. It uses more obvious phrases from Monteverdi and more contrasting sections and writing techniques.

MARY JANE LEACH is a composer/performer whose work reveals a fascination with the physicality of sound, its acoustic properties and how they interact with space. In many of her works Leach creates an other-worldly sound environment using difference, combination, and interference tones; these are tones not actually sounded by the performers, but acoustic phenomena arising from Leach's deft manipulation of intonation and timbral qualities. The result is striking music which has a powerful effect on listeners. Critics have commented on her ability to "offer a spiritual recharge without the banalities of the new mysticism" (*Detroit Free Press*), evoking "a visionary quest for inner peace" (*Vice Versa Magazine*), and "an iridescent lingering sense of suspended time." (*Musicworks Magazine*) Leach's music has been performed throughout the world in a variety of settings, from the concert stage to experimental music forums, and in collaboration with dance and theatre artists. Recordings of her work are on the Lovely Music, New World, XI, Wave/Eva, and Aerial compact disc labels