

The Gathering
for flute/piccolo and alto saxophone

Burton Beerman

One of my first experiences as a composer was writing gospel tunes for groups in the Atlanta area when I was as young as eight years old. I do not have any hardcopy or recordings of these works (we didn't have analog cassettes, dats, cd burners, and recording anything was a major task, especially if you were eight years old) but the imprinted experiences stick with me to this day. *The Gathering* uses a gospel tune that I composed during that time. At least, it uses the tune as I best can remember it. It is probably reasonable accurate. These early musical experiences are still vivid in my memory. Today, I can close my eyes and take myself back to these southern churches and to the music deeply rooted rhythms and musical energy that filled these small halls from the first moment you walked in until the moment you left.