

## ELLIS SCHUMAN

B.M., M.F.A.

Composer – Performer – Teacher

Born in Chicago

May 25, 1931

Ellis Schuman, composer, pianist, harpist and teacher, received his early education in Chicago and continued his studies earning degrees in music from Roosevelt University and Ohio University. After serving in the army in Korea, he began teaching music in the Chicago Public Schools distinguishing himself in all aspects of music education including performance and curriculum development. He received the Kate Maremont Foundation Dedicated Teacher Award in 1978 for his innovative accomplishments. After retiring from the public schools, he was appointed lecturer in harp at the Chicago Musical College of Roosevelt University where he initiated a program of class harp study. His composing brought him recognition from university and public performances including the International Society of Contemporary Music, Berkshire Music Center at Tanglewood and radio station WNYC-FM in New York City. He also worked as a coach-accompanist for vocal and instrumental soloists.

In 1984, he moved to San Francisco and became associated with the Music Center of San Francisco where he has a private studio and a large following of adult students. He continues to enjoy recognition as a serious composer and performer. Specialized music research afforded him opportunities for travel here and abroad. His compositions and scholarly arrangements for the harp have been published and are widely performed. In 2001, his *In Memoriam* for strings dedicated to the memory of the victims of the Holocaust was performed throughout the Bay Area by the New Century Chamber Orchestra with great success. The music and recording were presented as a gift to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington D.C. The orchestra also performed his *Night Song* for solo violin and strings in 2005. His *Mouvement Classique* for harp was performed at the 37<sup>th</sup> National Conference of the American Harp Society in San Francisco in 2006. In 2012, his setting of Psalm 121 for mixed chorus and harp was performed by Saint Mary's Cathedral Choir of San Francisco and the San Francisco Conservatory of Music Chamber Choir.

Ellis Schuman's life and work were the subject of an interview in the Summer, 2005 issue of the American Harp Journal. He was also recipient of the 2008 Harold Washington Professional Achievement Alumni Award presented by Roosevelt University.



*Psalm 121*

*I will lift up mine eyes unto the mountains:  
From whence shall my help come?  
My help cometh from the Lord,  
Who made heaven and earth.*

*He will not suffer thy foot to be moved;  
He that keepeth thee will not slumber.  
Behold, He that keepeth Israel  
Shall neither slumber nor sleep.*

*The Lord is thy keeper;  
The Lord is thy shade upon thy right hand.  
The sun shall not harm thee by day,  
Nor the moon by night.*

*The Lord shall keep thee from all evil;  
He shall preserve thy soul.  
The Lord shall guard thy going out and thy  
coming in,  
From this time forth and forever.*

# PSALM 121

For mixed chorus and harp\*

ELLIS SCHUMAN

Adagio

The musical score is written for piano and harp. It consists of four systems of music, each with a treble and bass clef staff. The tempo is marked 'Adagio'. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The time signature is common time (C). The score includes various dynamics: *p* (piano), *mp* (mezzo-piano), *mf* (mezzo-forte), *f* (forte), and *subito p* (suddenly piano). There are also markings for *espressivo*. The score features several triplet markings (3) and a wavy line indicating a tremolo effect. The harp part includes chord diagrams for F#, C#, A#, G#, and Bb. The piano part includes a wavy line indicating a tremolo effect. The score ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

\*piano may be used if no harp is available