

American Sketches
variations for piano

Commissioned by
Sharon Ley Lietzow

In Memory of
Emory Alexander "Ned" Gray, Jr.
April 4, 1917 - October 25, 1998

Composed by
J. Todd Frazier

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Program Notes:

American Sketches was commissioned in November 2000 by pianist Sharon Ley Lietzow and dedicated to the memory of her father, Emory Alexander "Ned" Gray, Jr. "During conversations with Sharon, I learned that her love for contemporary music inspired by folk melodies originated from musical experiences shared with her father. These experiences had a profound impact on her life. Therefore, when Sharon asked me for a new work in memory of her father, I looked to characteristic elements of American and Scottish folk melodies for inspiration. Just as an individual would reflect upon a series of pencil or pastel sketches on a common subject, American Sketches are similarly inspired and should be heard as musical reflections upon and impressionistic responses to the subject of folk music." J. Todd Frazier

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