

Brazos De Dios

For guitar and chamber orchestra or piano

Music: J. Todd Frazier (b. 1969)

Brazos de Dios was commissioned by the Society for the Performing Arts of Houston, Texas for guitarist Susan McDonald.

This work for guitar and chamber orchestra or piano is an impressionistic one, inspired by the Brazos River's many tributaries, or "arms", which become new rivers, connecting Texas and its people. The "arms" relate to the seamless movements of the piece and pay tribute to the diversity of cultures that make up Texas' heritage. The river and music tell a colorful and inspiring story of freedom, hope and reflection.

The composer, J. Todd Frazier, provides the following comments about the piece:

"Brazos de Dios... my grandfather calls the Brazos by that name... the Arms of God. I've seen it written that way on a map of the Republic of Texas from 1842. What a name. Of all the rivers in Texas, the Brazos is the most intriguing to me. It gets me dreaming. I suppose it's a bit like the Mississippi or the Hudson... but different. It reaches places and events that are close to Texans. Its arms flow through the entire state and join it together, touching so many generations that have traveled its banks. The many intriguing aspects of the Brazos River translate so naturally into a musical response, and the guitar seems the most appropriate instrument to share this intimate expression." Copyright 2014 J. Todd Frazier

