Programme note

**The Enchanted Mesa (1990)**

**Douglas Finch**

*The Enchanted Mesa* was inspired by *Krazy Kat*, the dreamlike comic-strip creation of George Herriman, syndicated in the Hirst newspapers in America in the 1920s, 30s and 40s.

Underlying the storyline of a love-hate triangle between a mouse, a cat and a policeman-dog is a shimmering world of ever-changing Arizona Desert backdrops, symbolism from Navajo folklore and whimsical philosophical and poetic musings. One of the characters, Joe Stork, lives on the Enchanted Mesa (a high table-like rock formation in the desert) from whence he flies down to dispense his "bundles of joy" of new life to the surrounding populace.

This little Overture (for an imaginary Opera) depicts the Mesa at sunrise, a symbol for the sacredness of life and its constant regeneration.

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