

*August 22* for mixed chorus, percussion and piano by Richard Wilson

*August 22*, a setting of John Unterecker's poem of that title, was composed during a period when I made several visits to the studio of a friend, the painter Philip Guston. Because these visits were exhilarating and a great stimulus to my work, I had intended to dedicate the work to Mr. Guston and his wife, Musa.

Sadly, Philip Guston died on June 7, 1980, before *August 22* was performed or issued in print. The dedication has accordingly been made to his memory.

The title, *August 22*, arises because the poem commemorates an actual walk by the sea taken on that day in the company of someone whose birthday it was. The poem became a birthday gift from the poet to his companion.

First performed July 23, 1980 by the William Appling Singers, with William Appling conducting, as part of the Summer Music Experience, Western Reserve Academy, Hudson, Ohio.

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