

*The Second Law* for baritone and piano by Richard Wilson

The first teacher I laid eyes on, as a frightened college freshman, was a certain Stephen Sandy. It was a writing course; we read Plato, Nietzsche and Ezra Pound--and I was totally at sea. The papers I produced for him were misspelled and incomprehensible.

Two or three years later, reading a prestigious magazine, I discovered he was a poet. Unlike my writing, his poems were crystal clear and affecting. They seemed 'musical'. Before too much longer, I set the first of a series of six or so for chorus without accompaniment. Beginning in the late 1960's, these became my first publications.

Returning to his work after all these years, I have set *The Second Law* for baritone and piano as my contribution to the Aids Quilt Songbook in 1992. This was a poem that much affected Will Parker, to whom the setting is dedicated, and who--with Alan Marks-- gave its first performances.

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