

Program Notes for *I Cannot Forget You*

One of the evergreen Finnish folk songs, *En Voi Sua Unhottaa Poies*, serves as the focal point for *I Cannot Forget You*, the third movement from *Breath of the Mountains: A Folk Suite*. This folk song, first published in 1876, would have probably been known to the early Finnish settlers in America. It eloquently describes how the author cannot forget the person that he loves, but who can never be his. Following the first choral statement of this song is a lively instrumental interlude for two violins that uses a Scandinavian fiddle tune, *Finn Jenta* (Finnish Girl), that was likely written around the turn of the twentieth century. The choir returns with another statement of *En Voi Sua Unhottaa Poies* in a modified canon to end the piece.