

*The Crane Dance* is a dramatic solo for soprano and women's chorus describing the holy dance of Crete. In ancient Crete there was a form of choral dance using choruses of girls who accompanied dancers, called the hypercheme, in which a dancing and gesticulating chorus was reinforced by a stationary group of singers. There are no dancers in this piece, but the singers describe a dance. The piece starts fairly serenely and builds in intensity as the dancing becomes more frenzied, which is reflected in the choral accompaniment.

MARY JANE LEACH is a composer/performer whose work reveals a fascination with the physicality of sound, its acoustic properties and how they interact with space. In many of her works Leach creates an other-worldly sound environment using difference, combination, and interference tones; these are tones not actually sounded by the performers, but acoustic phenomena arising from Leach's deft manipulation of intonation and timbral qualities. The result is striking music which has a powerful effect on listeners. Critics have commented on her ability to "offer a spiritual recharge without the banalities of the new mysticism" (*Detroit Free Press*), evoking "a visionary quest for inner peace" (*Vice Versa Magazine*), and "an iridescent lingering sense of suspended time." (*Musicworks Magazine*) Leach's music has been performed throughout the world in a variety of settings, from the concert stage to experimental music forums, and in collaboration with dance and theatre artists. Recordings of her work are on the Lovely Music, New World, XI, Wave/Eva, and Aerial compact disc labels