

Broken Places  
Program Note

Sometimes there is no explaining why - or how - one comes up with ideas. Some of the best ideas are just **there**, and it's wisest to jump on them without asking too many questions.

As soon as I began thinking about this new work for Martha Cargo and Ben Larsen, the term "Broken Places" came to mind. I conceived the work as a series of short, contrasting pieces on the theme of brokenness.

While I was composing the seven brief movements, this poem began to emerge as well:

***broken places***

*broken promise*  
*broken dreams*  
*broken open at the seams*

*broken world*  
*broken clock*  
*broken record*  
*broken rock*

*body broken*  
*torn apart*  
*broken trust*  
*broken heart*

*broken spirit*  
*broken spell*  
*ever broken*  
*time will tell*

*curse is broken*  
*broken tomb*  
*bread is broken*  
*upper room*

Robert Sirota