Scenes from the Japanese Countryside for Piccolo Solo;
‘A Land of Remote Valleys’:

I.  
II.  
III.  

David Loeb  
(1939- )

Fireflies for Piccolo and Piano
Herman Beeftink  
(1953- )

Spring for Flute and Piano
Herman Beeftink  
(1953- )

(The two works by Beeftink will be performed as a set without intervening applause)

Introduction and Variations on “Trockne Blumen” for Flute and Piano
Franz Schubert  
(1797-1828)
Scenes from the Japanese Countryside : David Loeb

David Loeb is an American composer born in New York City. Loeb has a deep interest in Japanese music and instruments before the creation of their modern versions. Through his study, Loeb aims to bring these sounds to the forefront of instrumental music and adapt these sounds to modern instruments. He writes in the score for the first three movements, ‘A Land of Remote Valleys’:

"Over many years we have traveled through several long river valleys in Japan. These tend to be largely uninhabited, with rugged forested slopes interrupted occasionally by smaller tributary rivers. I have never explored any of these smaller valleys, many of them with only footpaths rather than any kind of road. But whenever we pass them, I always find myself wondering what lies behind the visible portion - do they branch into still smaller and more rugged valleys, or do they disappear at source? Even if one made the considerable effort to trample through a few of them, would not one still wonder about all the rest of them?"

- David Loeb

Fireflies for Piccolo and Piano : Herman Beeftink

Composer Herman Beeftink (1953 -    ) was born in the Netherlands, and has since moved to the United States. He is an active composer, who has written for woodwinds, strings, and piano. Fireflies was written for Erica Peel, the principal piccoloist of the Philadelphia Symphony, as well as the current professor of piccolo at the Peabody Conservatory at John Hopkins University. The work is a bright, brilliant piece that is showcased beautifully on the piccolo, using the timbre of the instrument to help bring across the idea of fireflies flying around in the air gracefully and joyfully.

Spring for Flute and Piano : Herman Beeftink

Composer Herman Beeftink (1953 -    ) was born in the Netherlands, and has since moved to the United States. Beeftink dedicated Spring to Fay Aiyana Grant, assumed to be a close friend. Spring is the first of four pieces written by Beeftink called “Seasons”, named after each of the four seasons. Utilizing the pairing of flute and piano, Beeftink creates a lush texture; a calm atmosphere enhanced by the low, rich register of the flute. It then changes into a lively, animated section where the piano and flute play in tandem, that eventually calms down into the piano on its own, a great contrast and a return to the original feeling of the piece.

Introduction and Variations on “Trockne Blumen” : Franz Schubert

Franz Schubert composed his Introduction and Variations on “Trockne Blumen” in January, 1824, four years before his death at the age of 31. The piece was written for the professor of flute at the Vienna Conservatory, Ferdinand Bogner. Trockne Blumen is the 18th song in the song cycle Die Schöne Müllerin. The cycle is about a miller who falls in love with a woman who chooses another man, and the miller drowns himself after staring at his reflection in the water as a way to cope with the grief felt by the rejection. This stunning work is virtuosic, with plenty of flourishes and difficult passages for both flute and piano. (Flute Talk, October 2000, Karen Haid). The work consists of an Introduction, Thema, and seven variations.

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