

A LOVER’S QUARREL

for Voice and Piano

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COMPOSER’S NOTE

A LOVER’S QUARREL was composed during a residency at Centrum at Fort Worden State Park in Port Townsend, Washington, in May and June, 2007. The composer first encountered the poetry of Sam Hamill at Memory’s Vault, on Artillery Hill at Fort Worden State Park.

Memory’s Vault, which overlooks the confluence of the Strait of Juan de Fuca and Puget Sound, is a striking and powerful assemblage of architectural elements and steles created by Richard Turner in 1988. The texts of “Sonnet” and “A Lover’s Quarrel” are inscribed on two of the steles of Memory’s Vault. At the entrance to the site, architect/sculptor Richard Turner provides the following note: “Memory’s Vault is a work of art created through the efforts of the artist, individuals and state agencies working collectively to mark in a new way an important page in Washington’s history.”

Sam Hamill’s poems celebrate life in the Pacific Northwest, the forests, the flowers, and especially the seashore.

Kah Tai is the Native American name of a lovely small land-locked lagoon in Port Townsend, adjacent to Admiralty Inlet. It is surrounded by marshes and abundant vegetation.

The cycle is dedicated to Norman Spivey with gratitude and affection.