

Program notes for

*Enkidu*, music by Douglas Geers

A work for violin and live electroacoustic performance (2001-02)

Duration: 11 minutes

*Enkidu* is a work for violin with live interactive electroacoustic music. The title refers to the name of a character from the ancient epic of *Gilgamesh*. In it, Enkidu is an untamed man sent by the gods to counteract King Gilgamesh's abuses of power. However the two men become great friends, and eventually the gods decide to reverse their creation and strike down Enkidu. This musical composition is a psychological investigation into the character of Enkidu, whose loyalty costs him his life. It is also an exploration of the relationship between traditional means of musical expression (violin, recurring sets of pitch intervals, melodic lines, motivic rhythms) with electroacoustic techniques: timbral processing; computer listening, analysis, and interaction; and notions of the computer as a chamber music instrument. The live electroacoustic music is created during performance by software in the Max/MSP environment designed and built by the composer. *Enkidu* was written for violinist Maja Cerar.

Please see Geers' *Creating Gilgamesh* paper for more information on the compositional techniques used to create this work.