

CLOUDSPLITTER

The title “Cloud Splitter” is an English translation of “Tahawus”, the Native-American name for Mt. Marcy. Marcy is New York’s highest mountain, and is also the highest peak in the Adirondack range. Though this piece is not programmatic, it is inspired by the incredible feeling that one experiences when climbing in the Adirondacks, especially gazing from Marcy’s summit. The piece’s central concern is the interval of a perfect fifth and, by extension, the cycle of fifths. It utilizes different combinations and arrangements of the fifth cycle to gain other intervals. For example, the stacking of two fifths results in the outer interval of a major second. Though not a 12-tone piece, the completion of the chromatic scale plays a significant part in the piece’s structure.

This piece is dedicated to my wife Katie, who has been to the top of Mt. Marcy and always seems to know what I mean.