

## **Cort Lippe**

### **Program Notes**

**Possessive Knots** (1985) is based on texts from the book entitled *Knots* written by the British psychiatrist R.D. Laing, and is scored for two singers (soprano and bass) with piano accompaniment. The work is divided into eight vignettes in which the singers engage in various kinds of dialogues: communicating rather closely as a duo, declaiming as soloists, and as a non-communicating duo. Selections of the original text were chosen that deal with the subject of possession within the context of an intimate relationship. The text of the work leaves a great deal of dramatic interpretation possible, offering the performers various options for exploring the two characters, which have a rather complicated emotional relationship that is somewhat difficult to define. *Knots* is based on Laing's life-long study of schizophrenia. The work can be performed as concert music, interpreted in a more dramatic style, or staged as a miniature “psycho-drama”. **Possessive Knots** received its premiere as a staged production at the *The Walker Arts Center* in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Duration: 7 to 8 minutes.