

For at least twenty five years I have
wanted to create my own collection of Composers'
portraits - ones that would say to me what I
thought about these men and about ^{the ways} ~~how~~ each ^{one} ~~man~~
had affected work had affected me. ~~What~~

I make no secret of the fact that of all the arts
my first passion is for music. For painting my
feelings are of a different kind and ^{to} a different depth.

In these small roundels I have attempted
to bring together many of my major interests. ~~the~~
Costume and biography, history music and painting.

Over the years I have studied each of these ^{and} ~~had~~ felt
great artists ~~in depth~~ and to the point that I ~~feel~~
an intense sympathy with many of them so much
so that when I began the project the entire suite
was completed in a month's time.

When asked to pick a favorite, I find this
changes with my moods, rather like choosing a
recording to suit a passing fancy, but Mozart
remains a beguiling constant. I feel that of
all the portraits of him I have ever seen this
is my favorite and the only one that is ^{his} ~~born~~ for
me. ~~and~~ This is true also of Beethoven, Handel and
even to some extent of that supreme enigma - Chopin.

~~I plan for many more when the time is right.~~

~~mean that I~~
This does not give second place to any other for

each one like his music fills a niche no other can fill can occupy. I plan to do more perhaps many more until my small music room with its harpsichord, violins and cello, its piles of sheet music and even of my own manuscripts becomes a veritable shrine to the profound affect these people have had upon me.

Red Oak

Central Texas

Red Oak is a ^{central Texas} pastoral caught in ~~the~~ a change of seasons. The tree itself is one of the last to retain its leaves when the frosts come ^{and}. They hold on with what seems to be a firm grip but in one or two days they too will be gone as the land eases on into winter. This rather large water color was one of the ten landscapes chosen for our book Of Birds and Texas with the intention of conveying this particular part of Texas at this time of year and to be part of the ^{suite} set of landscapes that was to set the stage, so to speak, for the birds to follow.