

Once Upon a Universe

(music by Jake Heggie; first sung by Jennifer Larmore on **The Faces of Love**,
1999)

Once, when God was a little boy, his Mother caught him breaking his toys, then gluing them back together again with prayers and incantations. Don't play with your creation, she admonished him, but he went right on building temples, only to destroy them with vast armies of antlike peoples, creating new planets, then wiping them out with their own ignominious waste products. At the end of eternity his Mother shook her cosmic finger and insisted that he clean up his universe: *Or there'll be no bliss for you, young God!* He swept the entire mess into the nearest black hole and fell asleep sucking his Divine Thumb. Amen.