



Charles Argersinger

Program notes

Riddles of Exeter

music: Charles Argersinger

texts: anonymous

No. 7 "My clothes are silent as I walk the earth ..."

No. 29 "I saw a silvery creature scurrying ..."

No.

No. 32 "Our world is lovely in different ways,..."

No. 14 "I was a warrior's weapon, once ..."

Eric Furuseth, bass

Eric Lear, violin

James Reid, guitar

David Jarvis, percussion

The five riddles date from the early eighth century and have been taken from the *Exeter Book*, perhaps the most famous of collection of Anglo-Saxon poetry. Enigmatic poems such as these have historically been of interest to both intellectuals and popular culture; "it was Aristotle who first noticed the intimate connection between riddles and metaphor...These poems are invaluable as a window upon the daily life and occupations of the Anglo-Saxons, since they are stocked with a God's plenty of creatures who in their different voices howl, warble, creak, clink, bellow, and crow the common demand for identification" (). In song, I have presented the first and last of this group in the original Old English, with the center three in modern English; solutions for all but No. are known. Can you solve them?