

April 2003

**JOHN ADAMS WINS 2003 PULITZER PRIZE IN MUSIC FOR
*ON THE TRANSMIGRATION OF SOULS***

John Adams has been awarded the 2003 Pulitzer Prize in Music for *On the Transmigration of Souls*, his 25-minute work for chorus, children's chorus, sound design, and orchestra. Adams had been commissioned by an anonymous donor to write a work for the New York Philharmonic, marking the somber anniversary of the September 11 attacks. *On the Transmigration of Souls* received its premiere on September 19, 2002 with Lorin Maazel conducting.

The score uses recordings of ambient city sounds and voices reading names of the missing. Its sung texts are drawn from the missing-person posters and memorial websites that appeared in the wake of the attack, along with eyewitness accounts.

a shared honor

Upon receiving word of the prize, the composer said, "Composing *Souls* was a serious and very humbling experience for me, and any honor that receiving the Pulitzer Prize may afford should be shared with families of those who were lost on September 11 in New York. I'll always be indebted to those New Yorkers who so generously allowed me to use their words and remembrances to create this piece."

compassion and a deep
sensitivity

Says Jennifer Bilfield, President of Boosey & Hawkes, Inc., "John's friends at Boosey & Hawkes are deeply moved by the committee's choice to award the Pulitzer Prize to *On the Transmigration of Souls*, and we applaud the work's commissioners for their stewardship. Composing *Souls* called for more than musical brilliance; it required compassion and deep sensitivity to the human spirit in all of its complexity. Very few composers could create such a sacred musical space. That the Pulitzer Prize, awarded by John's peers, recognizes this achievement reaffirms his stature as a leading creative artist of our times."

Souls in Europe

On the Transmigration of Souls receives its European premiere in London this summer as John Adams conducts the BBC Symphony Orchestra in July. A performance follows in Amsterdam on September 6, marking the second anniversary of the tragic events; Edo de Waart will conduct the Netherlands Radio Philharmonic Orchestra and Radio Choir at the Concertgebouw.