

Doreen by the River

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for Doreen and Chris Drinkwater

The musical score is written for guitar in the key of D major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. It consists of eight staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 3/4 time signature. The melody is composed of eighth and quarter notes. Chord symbols are placed above the staff: G, D, Am, D. The second staff continues the melody with chords G, D, C, D. The third staff features a more active bass line with chords Em, Bm, C, D. The fourth staff returns to a simpler melody with chords G, D, Am, D, G. The fifth staff has a more complex bass line with chords Cmaj7/G, Bm, D/A, G, D. The sixth staff continues with Cmaj7/G, Bm, C, D. The seventh staff has Cmaj7/G, Bm, Em, D. The eighth and final staff concludes the piece with chords G, D, Am, G, Am, D, G.

This was written in May, 2022, for a virtual friend, Chris Drinkwater, whose wife had been bedridden for the last 16 months and would stay that way for the rest of her life. His love and realism and gentleness makes me cry. I wrote the first two measures driving up to Hot Springs, NC, where we stayed in a BnB on the bank of the French Broad River, which was in full flood - high, wide, rushing, and beautiful - and when we arrived I went outside to sit by the river and work the tune. After awhile I got an image of Doreen, lying in a large feather bed on the bank of the river, watching it flow. The tune then wrote itself in about a half hour.

Doreen died on September 25th, 2022, five days before Chris's 75th birthday.