

Moon Over The Western Ridge, Mootwingee. Quartet for Saxophones.

This quartet was written in Sydney in 1984, just after I had returned from a month in the outback country of Western New South Wales. Perhaps the listener will discern in the music some of the images I brought back from that trip: great distances, great quiet; ancient trees standing in the white sand of a dry creek bed; groves of golden wattle, alive with birds; grey-green desert as far as the eye can see, broken by ranges of craggy hills; shapes ever-changing, in the shimmer of midday heat or the shadowy world of a moonlit night.

The quartet lasts for about fifteen minutes, and was composed especially for the Rascher Quartet. Its harmony moves from diatonic clarity into the shaded world of microtones.

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