RENE ORTH

YOU SHATTERED MY DEAFNESS

Text: St. Augustine, *Confessions* 10.27 (397-400)

How late I came to love you, O Beauty so ancient and so fresh,

How late I came to love you!

You were within me, yet I had gone outside to seek you.

Unlovely myself, I rushed toward all those lovely things you had made.

And always you were with me, I was not with you.

All these beauties kept me far from you

- although they would not have existed at all unless they had their being in you.

You called, you cried, you shattered my deafness.

You sparkled, you blazed, you drove away my blindness.

You shed your fragrance, and I drew my breath and I pant for you.

I tasted and now I hunger and thirst.

You touched me, and now I burn with longing for your peace.