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SCREAMING AZALEAS

by

SCOTT MCALLISTER

A THESIS SUBMITTED
IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE
DOCTOR OF MUSICAL ARTS

APPROVED, THESIS COMMITTEE

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ABSTRACT

Screaming Azaleas

by

Scott McAllister

_Screaming Azaleas_ is a set of songs about life in the South. The focus of this work is similar to a common thematic motif in classic southern literature--the idea of being trapped in an endless cycle of disasters. The first poem reflects images of life and light through the eyes of a mother's child. The second poem deals with the sharp reality of death and the disbelief of a mother who has lost her son. Finally, the last song is the mother's last moment with her son, a moment which takes place at the gravesite. The recurring azalea, a southern flower which blooms only once a year for a very short time, reflects the fragile, temporary existence of life.
Interlude II