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TIN PUN ALLEY

Tin Pun Alley is proud to publish the following Exclusive Interview with Merwin Lewis, whose cantata for tenor and chamber orchestra The Sun Rising will be premiered on 2 March 1983 by The University of Western Ontario Faculty Chamber Orchestra.

T.P.A.: The secret is out at last. We have known for years of your career as a composer, but few of us could have guessed that you have been sun-lighting for years as a music librarian. I am sure you have been accustomed to this by now, but tell me, when you first began, how did you find combining two occupations, one highly glamorous, the other, shall we say, "mundane"?

M.L.: I just looked in the want ads. Being a music librarian is, of course, rather glamorous, but I wouldn't want anyone to be left with the impression that composing is mundane; humdrum perhaps, but not mundane.

T.P.A.: Your compositions include operas, choral works, songs, and chamber music. It has been said that you have a predilection for setting words to music. Would you concur?

M.L.: Whoever said that is only partially correct. As an opera composer I also enjoy wording music to sets.

T.P.A.: I'm not sure that that makes any sense.

M.L.: You're darn right; it doesn't. Last year I made little more than thirty dollars from royalties.
T.P.A.: From which ones?
M.L.: From the *Two Little Twinkle Wrinkles.*
T.P.A.: You needn't be so disrespectful. What would the Queen say?
M.L.: You misunderstand me.
T.P.A.: Not half as much as I do you.


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