## JEFF MANOOKIAN

## AKHTAMAR

for Oboe and String Orchestra

Windsor Editions

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for Oboe and String Orchestra

In Lake Van, of historic Armenia, is the island of Akhtamar. Armenians call this island "Akhtamar" because of a tragic but at the same time very beautiful legend about Princess Tamar who lived on the island. She was in love with a commoner from the other shore of the lake. Each night, he would swim across the dark expanse just to steal a few precious moments with her. The Princess would light a fire to light his way across the dark waters. One tragic night, her father, King Artashes, discovered what she was doing. Outraged, he locked her away and extinguished the fire. The young man lost his way in the darkness. Before he drowned, he could be heard crying "Akh, Tamar" ("Oh, Tamar"). Some say that, even today, on dark nights, one can still hear him crying out "Akh, Tamar," as he searches in vain for his love.

duration: ca. 7 minutes

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