

# 'Worried' music proves emotional

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It's a grabber title: *Are You Worried About the Rising Cost of Funerals?*

Belize-born composer **Errollyn Wallen**, who has lived in England since age 2, saw the sentence in a London shop window. She said it set her imagination running. The result was *Are You Worried ...*, a set of "five simple songs" for soprano and string quartet that Houston's [Foundation for Modern Music](#) presents today.

**Robert Avalon**, the foundation's artistic director, got hooked on Wallen's music through her CD *The Girl in My Alphabet*. *Are You Worried ...* is the second track. Her music has a "borderless quality," he said. It's strongly emotional yet it has "structural and intellectual strength."

Wallen's music ricochets between classical and pop idioms. She also has a knack for titles: A violin/piano piece is *Woogie Boogie*.

"I didn't set out to have these two sides," Wallen said. "It just happened, in part because (I wanted) songs for me to sing and to play at the piano."

Other works on the *Music of Today* event are Copland's Piano Variations, works of Avalon and pieces of tango great [Astor Piazzolla](#).

The concert is at 5 p.m. at [First Cumberland Presbyterian Church](#), 2119 Avalon Place. Wallen also will perform samples of her songs during the pre-concert talk at 4:15 p.m. Tickets are \$15 at the door. Call 713-529-3928.