

evant to Ives's intention of showing Emerson's initial vagueness. 'Emerson is greater' though, and his *articulate* voice heard in Ives's codas extends into the final movement.

7 Thoreau – the last movement of the Concord Sonata

Ives has noticed so many similarities between himself and the author that at times it is difficult to distinguish in the *Essays* whether it is him or Thoreau who is speaking. Ives indicates that Thoreau, like Beethoven, was capable of expressing 'profound truths' and 'deep sentiment'⁹⁸ because Thoreau too applied a 'music is life' approach in his writing (e.g. *Walden*). 'Indeed, he (Thoreau) was also coming to see that *living and writing*, in fact the whole business of working in language, were not only cooperative acts but, in part at least, the same act when viewed in perspective'.⁹⁹

7.1 Thoreau, the author

Henry David Thoreau was America's *Naturphilosoph*.¹⁰⁰ 'He was divinely conscious of the enthusiasm of Nature, the emotion of her rhythms and the harmony of her solitude.'¹⁰¹ This is why he launched a social experiment of natural asceticism; for two years he lived in a self-built cabin at Walden Pond near Concord. As an individual in nature and independent of social restrictions, he wanted to re-establish a closeness between man and the universe.¹⁰²

Thoreau kept a journal of his experiment. The diary, together with descriptions of his walks around the pond, were published as *Walden* and Ives quotes readily from various chapters of this book. His interest in Thoreau's concept of time is particularly significant as it is a subject that appears to be pervasive throughout *Walden*:

98 1970:51.

99 Garber, 1988:400.

100 Garber, 1988:405.

101 Ives, 1970:51.

102 Conen, 1981:33.

Wherever the place – time there must be. ... Time *from* the demands of social conventions. Time *from* too much labor (for some) which means too much to eat, too much to wear, too much material, too much materialism (for others). Time from the “hurry and waste of life”. ... Time *for* practicing the art, of living the art of living.¹⁰³



EXAMPLE 7 A reconstruction of Thoreau’s cabin at Walden Pond¹⁰⁴

As a flute player himself, Thoreau must have been aware of the fact that time is a concept which is especially associated with music as a temporal art. The structuring of time on a macro level shapes the music according to existing architectural models such as sonata form,

103 Ives, 1970:55-56.

104 Picture on the cover of Thoreau and Cramer, 2004.