

Program Notes

Music for Winds, Piano, and Percussion was commissioned by and dedicated to the Indianapolis Chamber Winds, Darin Sorley, Music Director; and the Indianapolis Symphonic Band, Inc., Bob Phillips, Founder. It is scored for flute, 2 oboes, 2 clarinets, 2 bassoons, 2 horns, trumpet, piano and percussion.. This three-movement work is fourteen minutes long, and each movement has its own separate identity.

The first movement is programmatic in nature. This Allegro movement follows the daughter of the composer's weeklong ordeal in traveling to a summer music festival in Verbier, Switzerland. Her trip was fraught with missed and delayed airplanes, traffic jams in New York, and lonely nights in New York City hotels while attempting to reach her destination. The opening eighth note motif heard in the woodwinds at the introduction of this movement is meant to represent the frustration in her 5-day journey. The following main theme is a happy and lighthearted melody representing the anticipation and excitement that normally accompanies a summer trip to Europe. The second theme is in a minor key and reflects the frustration that occurred as the trip became complicated by missed plane connections. The movement goes between these two basic themes in a quasi rondo form chronicling the weeklong experiences of trying to get to Europe. The first movement ends as it begins with this agitated eighth note theme as if to say, "*I can't get there from here.*"

The second movement is marked Adagio and features many members of the ensemble as soloists. Opening with a peaceful woodwind chorale, this second movement leads into a lyrical flute solo stating the A theme. This reflective melody is followed by a more rhythmical yet still lyrical B theme first heard in the piano. These two melodies are passed to solo clarinet and oboe later in the work, which eventually weaves itself back to the opening tranquil woodwind chorale to end the movement.

The third movement, marked Allegro Vivace, is a spirited conclusion to this three-movement work. It is playful in nature and very rhythmic. This movement even includes a section that could be interpreted as a Latin dance as this music races to its joyful conclusion.