

PROGRAM NOTES: “Oboe Concerto for Solo Oboe and Wind Ensemble”

I have always thought the sound of the oboe to be one of the most elegant sounds in the palette of the wind family. When the opportunity came to write a concerto for this wonderful instrument, I jumped at it. As the oboe’s tone has always enchanted me, I decided that I wanted to veer from the normal style of concerto writing, where virtuosity is the primary element on display, and feature the rich tone of this double-reed instrument. To that end, this work has long sections (including the opening) that showcase its melodic gift, which alternate with 2 faster scherzi, giving the instrument’s technical speed a chance to shine.

The original version, for oboe and orchestra, was commissioned by the Minnesota Commissioning Club. This version for soloist and wind ensemble, was commissioned by the University of Michigan (Michael Haithcock, dir.), The University of North Carolina at Greensboro (Kevin Geraldi, dir.), and The Hartt School (Glen Adsit, dir.).

--Jennifer Higdon