

**PROGRAM NOTES: “Soprano Sax Concerto for Solo Soprano Sax and Wind Ensemble”**

I have always been struck by the range of power and beauty that comes from saxophones. I have seen a sax quartet bring a large school room filled with hundreds of children to a complete halt with one tutti note. Many people don't realize just how much power exists in this group of instruments, and often they may not realize the potential for beauty.

The soprano sax in particular produces a tone of warmth and a real agility that allows it to sing like none of the other instruments in this group. So it seemed logical, when I was approached by several saxophonists, to arrange my “Oboe Concerto” for this instrument.

The original version of this work was commissioned by The Minnesota Commissioning Club. This arrangement was commissioned in 2009 by the University of Michigan, the Hartt School, and the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

--Jennifer Higdon