

PROGRAM NOTES: "Voices"

"Voices" is the telling of three different images. The first image, "Blitz" carries a tremendous amount of relentless, frenzied energy. It describes a high level of intensity, always on the verge of explosion. The second image, "Soft Enlacing", carries a much more vague meaning, and is a calming contrast from the first movement. It may be very much like a walk through the house in the middle of the night: while the floor feels solid under foot, the rest of the world, to the eyes and ears, seems to be moving shadows. It may also be a gentle hug or the warm emotional embrace of a loved one. Again, its image is not meant to be clear cut and depends upon the listener's "viewing". The final movement, "Grace", is the calmest and carries the most possible number of meanings: the giving of thanks at a meal; the grace seen in behavior or in a personality; the grace of movement; the bestowing of one's self unto others; the quiet presence that exists in a being's soul. The telling of these images is from manic and frenzied to calm and quiet, from specific to vague, and from dark to light.

This work was commissioned in 1993 by the Philadelphia Chamber Music Society.

--Jennifer Higdon