

# Clarinet Sextet

for Clarinet in A,  
Two Violins, Viola,  
and Two Cellos

November 26, 2009—February 22, 2010

Duration: 23 ½ minutes

I have written two chamber works previous to this including clarinet; *Quartet for a New Beginning*, for clarinet, violin, cello and piano, and *Grand Serenade* for clarinet, cello and piano. These combinations worked well for the kind of music that I write. Also, there are two local married couples here in Raleigh where the husband plays clarinet and the wife is a cellist; Fred Jacobowitz and Bonnie Thron, who premiered the *Grand Serenade*, and Jimmy Gilmore and Elizabeth Beilman, who premiered the quartet.

While most of my chamber music includes piano, sometimes I like to get away from it for a bit. At first I intended to write a clarinet quintet for the usual clarinet and string quartet, but from the first few measures the music insisted on an extra cello. So—I went with the flow.

For no particular reason, the tempo markings are all taken from food. Except for the first movement's "Adagio con queso", none give an idea as to tempo, requiring musicians to refer to the metronome markings, which I much prefer.

Accidentals hold through the measure and not beyond, and do not refer to other octaves. Sometimes I include courtesy accidentals to avoid confusion.

Bill Robinson

Publisher Parrish Press Raleigh NC First Edition February 2010  
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