

Program notes for *Chamber Concerto*

In 1984 while a student at NTSU (now UNT) in Denton Texas, I spent about a year writing a four-movement “Great American Piano Concerto” of over 35 minutes duration. Despite some early leads, it remained unperformed. It seems the scene at NTSU was short on humor and didn’t particularly appreciate the title, the cover, and quite frankly my own rather bizarre self.

Then in 2003 I had converted to using Finale for copywork and began the electronic rendition of my music, which revitalized my composition career. I knew there was some good material languishing in the old GAPC, but it needed reforming into a more practical and performable instrumentation. I had long enjoyed piano quintets; it seemed a natural fit to rewrite what parts of the work survived severe review into a piano quintet with the easy extension into piano with string orchestra and timpani. (I’m a sucker for sticking kettle drums into all kinds of places, helps to sound **The Big Note** don’t you know.) This way the piece can be played by quite a range of musical groups.