

# Character Duets

(2011)

by

Sean Osborn

I. Jože

II. Eric

III. Jim

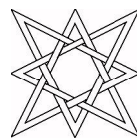
IV. Jesse

V. Frank

VI. Jennifer

Time - 12 min

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Composed for and premiered at Clarinettissimo 11 in 2011 - Jennifer Nelson and Sean Osborn clarinetists. This piece is inspired by six clarinetists who have been friends and colleagues for many years. Each movement is a musical portrait of a person, but how can a short duet movement capture a whole person? Each movement captures a portion of that person, events surrounding them, and/or my interaction with them.


- I. Jože Kotar - remembering a wonderful day in Ljubljana where he showed me around. The music moves from one thing to another quickly as we look here, then there, finally merging briefly as we moved together.
- II. Eric Mandat - with his forward-looking music, and softly expressive high intelligence, kindness, creativity, and thoughtfulness.
- III. Jim Ognibene - He and I played for many years together at the Met: He on Bass Clarinet and I on E-flat, here represented by the extreme registers of the parts
- IV. Jesse Canterbury - A colleague and friend of many free improvisations. A highly creative and intelligent person and clarinetist.
- V. Frank Kowalsky - my teacher at Interlochen and a mentor since we met in 1982. I will always be behind him.
- VI. Jennifer Nelson - Ragas for her love of India, and humor for our fondness of laughing.

#### Explanation of symbols:

 Glissando (notes)

 Portamento (slide)

 Quarter Flat

 Quarter Sharp

*tr*= Color Trill - a microtonal trill brought about by opening or closing a key below the last open hole down the clarinet.

 Slap Tongue

 Flutter Tongue

# Character Duets (2011)

## I. Jože

Sean Osborn

Easy-going  $q \dot{E} 58$

Slightly more flowing  $q \dot{E} 66$

The musical score is presented in two staves. The first system (measures 1-6) is in the key of B-flat major (two flats) and 6/8 time. The tempo is marked 'Easy-going' with a quarter note equal to 58 beats (q E 58). The second system (measures 7-12) continues in the same key and tempo. The third system (measures 13-19) changes to the key of D major (two sharps) and a slightly faster tempo of 'Slightly more flowing' with a quarter note equal to 66 beats (q E 66). The fourth system (measures 20-25) continues in D major. The fifth system (measures 26-31) also continues in D major. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, ties, and dynamic markings like *p* (piano), *cresc.* (crescendo), and *simile*. There are also some unusual markings like 'aa' and 'float' above notes in the later systems.

System 1: Two staves of music. The top staff begins with a sharp sign (#) and a common time signature (C). The bottom staff begins with a sharp sign (#) and a common time signature (C). Both staves contain complex rhythmic patterns with many notes and rests. A fermata is present over a measure in the top staff. A dynamic marking 'f' is visible in the bottom staff.

System 2: Two staves of music. The top staff begins with a sharp sign (#) and a common time signature (C). The bottom staff begins with a sharp sign (#) and a common time signature (C). Both staves contain complex rhythmic patterns. Dynamic markings 'f' and 'p' are present. A fermata is present over a measure in the top staff.

System 3: Two staves of music. The top staff begins with a double flat sign (bb) and a common time signature (C). The bottom staff begins with a double flat sign (bb) and a common time signature (C). Both staves contain complex rhythmic patterns. A dynamic marking 'cresc.' is present in the top staff. A fermata is present over a measure in the top staff.

System 4: Two staves of music. The top staff begins with a double flat sign (bb) and a common time signature (C). The bottom staff begins with a double flat sign (bb) and a common time signature (C). Both staves contain complex rhythmic patterns. Dynamic markings 'p' and 'poco f' are present. A fermata is present over a measure in the top staff.

System 5: Two staves of music. The top staff begins with a double flat sign (bb) and a common time signature (C). The bottom staff begins with a double flat sign (bb) and a common time signature (C). Both staves contain complex rhythmic patterns. A dynamic marking 'dolce' is present in the top staff. A fermata is present over a measure in the top staff.