

INSTRUMENTATION

Solo Oboe

Piccolo

Flutes 1, 2

Oboes 1, 2

B♭ Clarinets 1, 2

B♭ Bass Clarinet

Bassoons 1, 2

E♭ Alto Saxophones 1, 2

B♭ Tenor Saxophone

E♭ Baritone Saxophone

B♭ Trumpets 1, 2

F Horns 1, 2

Trombones 1, 2

Bass Trombone

Euphonium

Tuba

Timpani

Percussion 1: Vibraphone

Percussion 2: Marimba

Percussion 3: Chimes, Glock., Crotales

Percussion 4: Mark Tree, 2 Sus. Cyms., Snare Drum, Tam-Tam

PROGRAM NOTE

Hold Fast Your Dreams (Concerto No. 2 for Oboe) is gratefully dedicated to Linda Strommen and the Indiana University Wind Ensemble, conducted by Stephen Pratt. When I was composing the piece, my dear friend, Linda, who had also commissioned me to write my first oboe concerto, *Down a River of Time*, asked me if I might write the second oboe concerto as a tribute to her mother, Ellen Strommen. I loved the idea.

I have had the pleasure of getting to know this great lady and her infectious spirit, her elegance, her lively sense of humor, and her wonderful humanity. This resulted in me wanting to write a work that encapsulated her personality and life story. As in any life, there are the wonderful highs, and sometimes, very sad lows — but through it all, resilience and hope shine on — and that is certainly the way it is with Ms. Strommen.

In addition I was inspired by Louise Driscoll's poem, "Hold Fast Your Dreams", an uplifting poem celebrating generosity and hope. The first movement is a loving, gentle, and joyful waltz. The second movement is about those moments in life, such as the tragic loss of a loved one, which is filled with shock, surprise, and an almost agonized questioning. The final movement is the summation of a life well-lived, filled with peace and love, a keen sense of spirituality, and an embracing spirit.