

Rick Sowash compositions for Clarinet. These are free (PDF and MP3 files) ... just contact him at rick@sowash.com

FOR SOLO CLARINET:

Six Lovely Little Variations on “Love is Little”(2008)

Easy piece in C major, for good beginners. “Love is Little” is a Shaker hymn.

Duration: 4:08

Variations on a theme by Grandma Moses (2012)

Easy piece in C major, for good beginners. The theme is mine, not really by G'ma Moses.

Duration: 5:06

College Town Diary: Twelve Months in Gambier; twelve movements (1993)

Each movement depicts a month in a year in an Ohio college town. Miniatures, very short, alternately sarcastic and tender, sassy and poignant. Fun for college students.

Duration: 22:13

FOR CLARINET QUARTET:

Our Home for clarinet quartet (three B flat clarinets + bass clarinet) seven mov'ts (1978, rev. 2012)

Light and whimsical, musical descriptions of seven rooms in the composer's home. Easy.

Duration: 12:30

Chanty & Ragtime for clarinet quartet, two movements. 1976, arr. 2016.

An original sea chanty and ragtime, originally written for woodwind quintet.

Duration: 6:45

FOR CLARINET AND PIANO:

Suite from “A College Town Diary” for clarinet & piano. (2015, revised from earlier works.)

Six movements, alternately tender and comical.

Duration: 13 minutes.

Sanctuary at 3 AM for clarinet & piano (2000) Comforting, quiet, soothing music.

Duration: 6:30

Lullabye for Kara: for bass clarinet & piano (2002)

Gentle, quiet, bluesy, sleepy, a little Gershwin-esque, evokes “The Old South.”

Duration: 7:20

Two Homages for clarinet & piano (2007)

I. Gelato per Dio (Ice Cream for God) - Homage to Puccini

II. Curly Prays - Homage to Richard Rodgers

Duration: 8 min.

Concerto for Bb Clarinet & Orchestra three movements (2007)

Reduction for clarinet and piano.

Duration: 30:17

The View from Carew: Romance for clarinet & orchestra (2000) - reduction for clar. & piano

This piece can stand alone but it is also the second movement of my clarinet concerto.

Duration: 10:51

A Hero's Prayer for bass clarinet and piano. (2000). Thoughtful, brooding, quietly heroic.

Duration: 5:23

Lincolnesque for Bb clarinet and piano. (1999).

Evoking the man of the Prairie, the folksy, lanky, gentle lover of books and teller of stories.

Quiet and a tad wistful.

Duration: 2:22

FOR CLARINET & CELLO

Born of the Same Wild Mother: A Wintry Suite for clarinet & cello (1993, rev. 2001)

Five movements. The music is a little dark, chilly, bracing, but also sometimes tender.

Duration: 12:11

Three Bagatelles for clarinet & cello; three movements (also available for violin & cello) (2005)

Short, humorous movements. A tribute to Laurel & Hardy. Easy and fun to play.

Duration: 4:30

Glory Hallelujah for clarinet & cello; four movements (2013)

Movements I, II and IV are a little jazzy; III is marked “Religioso.” Last movement quotes “Glory, glory, hallelujah” from “The Battle Hymn of the Republic.”

Duration: 11:20

Calloway Suite for clarinet and cello, revised from earlier works in 2014.

A cycle of seven short, humorous pieces in tribute to Cab Calloway.

Duration 16 minutes.

A Christmas Ceremony for clarinet and cello; five movements. 2011.

For use at weddings and worship services, but also suitable for recitals. The piece can be played any time of year; if not during the Holidays, just drop the word “Christmas.”

I. Prelude,

II. Processional

III. The Ceremony

IV. Recessional

V. Postlude

Duration: 13:27

TRIOS FOR VIOLIN, CLARINET AND PIANO:

Trio #1 for violin, A clarinet & piano: “Sunny Days”; four movements (1994)

Blends Belo-Russia folk-songs with original tunes that have a distinctly American sound.

Duration: 17:55

Trio #2 for violin, A clarinet & piano: “American Variations on a Belo-Russian Folktune”;

One long, rich and varied movement (1994, rev. 1996, rev. 2005)

A little Russian folktune gradually becomes more and more American-sounding.

Duration: 15:19

Trio #3 for violin, clarinet & piano: “Memories of Corsica”; three movements (2007)

I. Arid Heat, II. Aromatic Breezes and III. Ardent Souls.

Duration: 15:20

Trio #4 for violin, Bb clarinet & piano: “Images of Mt. Emily”; five movements (2011)

Images of a mountain in eastern Oregon.

I. Good Morning, Miss Emily, II. Reflections, III. Here Comes Spring,

IV. Silent Sentinel, V. Harvest Time: Prayer & Hymn

Duration: 22 min.

TRIOS FOR CLARINET, CELLO AND PIANO:

Trio #1 for clarinet, cello & piano: “Voyage of the Spirit”; four movements (1998)

Moves from mysterious through romantic to exuberant.

Duration: 17:44

Trio #2 for clarinet, cello & piano: “Enchantment of April”; three movements (2002)

Lush, romantic, springtime music. Slow movement is the most beautiful I’ve written.

Duration: 20:09

Trio #3 for clarinet, cello & piano: “Shadows of November”; three movements (2002)

Outer movements are darkly energetic, middle movement is tender and sad.

Duration: 15:24

Trio #4 for clarinet, cello & piano: “Conversation of the Trees”; five movements (2002)

All three instruments are made from wood, after all. Here, their respective trees converse.

Duration: 26:18

Trio #5 for clarinet, cello & piano: “in classical style”; four movements (2002)

A tongue-in-cheek homage to the great classical composers, especially Beethoven and Schubert. I. Sonata-allegro form, II. Theme & variations, III. Minuet, IV. Rondo finale

Duration: 26:30

Trio #6 for clarinet, cello & piano: “Goddess of the Moon”; five movements (2002)

A night-time piece, ambiguous, impressionistic, nocturnal, very beautiful but a little strange.

I. Prologue, II. Nocturne, III. Interlude, IV. Scherzo, V. Epilogue

Duration: 27:12

Note: This music is gorgeous, but the whole piece is a little long for practical use in concerts.

An alternative is to perform only movements I, III and V with the title “Three Nocturnes for clarinet, cello and piano.” Another alternative is to perform only movements II and IV with the title “Nocturne and Scherzo for clarinet, cello and piano. Both alternatives have worked very well.

Trio #7 for A clarinet, cello & piano: “The Philosopher visits a Country Fair”(2003)

Snappy, short, funny, a little like Bernstein’s Candide Overture.

Duration: 5:25

Trio #8 for clarinet, cello & piano: “Two Self-Portraits”; two movements (2003)

I. Self-Portrait as a fool, II. Self-Portrait as a sage.”

Duration: 12:56

Trio #9 for clarinet, cello & piano: "Five Women"; five movements (2003)

Portraits of five women I love. Niece, aunt, friends and wife.

Duration: 18:09

Trio #10 for clarinet, cello & piano: "Winds of May"; four movements (2003)

Windy, fresh, intimate music. The easiest of my clarinet/cello/piano trios.

I. Morning, II. Deep Forest, III. Wildflowers, IV. Sunset

Duration: 12:25

Trio #11 for clarinet, cello & piano: "We Sang, We Danced"; four movements (2003)

Good times remembered nostalgically. Fairly easy and fun. The last movement is a tango.

Duration: 16:23

Trio #12 for clarinet, cello & piano: "Voyageurs"; four movements (2003)

Powerful and compelling, an epic homage to and evocation of Canada.

I. Geese in Flight, II. Song of the Voyageurs, III. Starshadows on Snow,
IV. A Majestic Land

Duration: 28 min.

Trio #13 for clarinet, cello & piano: "Passacaglia & Fugue"; two movements (2004)

An anti-war piece, sad and furious, dedicated "To the victims of George W. Bush and Osama bin Ladin." My opinion: this is one of my best, strongest, most deeply felt pieces.

Duration: 16:40

The View from Carew: Romance for clarinet, cello & piano (2000)

Neo-romantic, sad and beautiful. Also available for clarinet & piano.

Also available for clarinet and orchestra. See below.

Duration: 10 min.

Reduction for clarinet, cello & piano of my Concerto for cello & strings with A clarinet.
four movements (2006)

I. Hymns & Fugues, II. Bulgarian Blues, III. Sorbet, IV. Finale.

Duration: 22:40

FOR VIOLIN, CLARINET, CELLO AND PIANO:

Daweswood for violin, clarinet, cello & piano; three movements (1980)

I. The Bud, II. The Blossom, III. The Berry.

Cheerful, serene meditations on the lifecycle of plants.

Duration: 15:38

Anecdotes and Reflections: A Portrait of America for violin, Bb clarinet, cello & piano;
six movements (1989)

A long, eclectic work, attempting to express the staggering diversity of American culture.
Movements I and II, III and IV, V and VI can be played as separate, stand-alone, two-movement
works. In other words, all six movements don't have to be played in the same concert.

Duration: 38:39

Icons: Gershwin & Sousa for violin, Bb clarinet, cello & piano; two movements. (1989)

Homages, first tender, then zesty, to two great American composers, these are movements II
and VI from Anecdotes and Reflections, often performed together.

Duration: 12:40

A Perfect Day for Sailing for violin, Bb clarinet, cello & piano (1989)

Exciting, breezy, outdoors-y music, like sailing. This is movement III from Anecdotes and
Reflections

Duration: 5:33

Three Pieces for violin, Bb clarinet, cello & piano (1989)

I. Immigrants, II. Portrait of a River, III. Opposites Reconciled

These are movements I, IV and V from Anecdotes and Reflections.

Duration: 22:30

FOR REED TRIO (OBOE, A CLARINET AND BASSOON):

Impressionist Suite #1 for oboe, A clarinet and bassoon; three movements (2000)

Canonic homages to Renoir, Monet and Manet.

Duration: 12:13

Impressionist Suite #2 for oboe, A clarinet and bassoon; three movements (2000)

Canonic homages to Caillebotte, Cassat, Sisley and Bazille.

Duration: 13 min.

FOR NON-STANDARD ENSEMBLES:

Trio con Brio for violin, clarinet & cello; five movements (1999)

Written to suit the musical tastes of a fiery Italian clarinetist friend.

Duration: 17:53

Serenade for Mary: A Musical Get-well Card for flute, clarinet & string quartet; five mov'ts (1978)

Light, lovely music. "Mary" is not the Virgin, but rather a woman the composer admires.

I. Overture toward Mary, II. Lullabye for Mary, III. Scherzo on Mary, IV. Spiritus Maria (invoking the other, better-known Mary), V. Theme and 'Mary-ations'

Duration: 21:05

A Little Breakfast Music for two violins, oboe and clarinet; five movements (1976)

Serious but also humorous, like Haydn's music often is.

I. Orange Juice, II. French Toast, III. Bacon & Eggs, IV. Honey on English Muffins, V. A Variety of Herb Teas.

Duration: 26:14

Our Home for Woodwind Quartet: flute, oboe, clarinet and bassoon seven movements (1978)

Light and whimsical, musical descriptions of seven rooms in the composer's home.

Easy.

Duration: 12:30

Lagoons of San Diego County for flute, alto flute, Bb clarinet & piano; three movements. 2014.

1. Rising Tide, 2. Nocturne, 3. Breeding Frenzy

Duration: 15 min.

"A Couple in a Victorian Garden" for flute & alto flute or flute & B flat clarinet. 1993.

Short, sweet and easy.

Duration: 2:15

FOR CLARINET AND VOICE

Along the River for mezzo soprano, clarinet & piano; texts by James Joyce. 1998, rev. 2006.

Wistful, passionate, the cycle tells a love story; a personal favorite of mine.

Duration: 21 min.

Along the River for mezzo soprano, flute, clarinet & piano; texts by James Joyce. 1998, rev. 2007.

Revised to include flute. Wistful, passionate, the cycle tells a love story; this piece is a personal favorite of mine.

Duration: 21 min.

Three Musical Myths for coloratura soprano, A clarinet and piano. 1995.

Powerful settings of well-known, ancient Greek mythic tales about the power of music.
I. Pan, II. Music of the Spheres, III. Orpheus.
Duration: 8:10

Song of the Marsh for mezzo, clarinet & pno.; text by Odell Shepard. 2010.
A beautiful but desolate marsh finds its voice and sings a stern warning to humans.
Duration: 7:24

Three Whitman Songs for mezzo soprano & clarinet; texts by Walt Whitman (1998)
(Also available in a version for baritone and clarinet.)
I. The First Dandelion II. A Noiseless Patient Spider III. A Farm Picture
Duration: 6:12

CLARINET QUINTET:

Quintet for A clarinet & strings; four movements (1995) (also available for B flat clarinet)
Written for the French clarinetist Lucien Aubert, who premiered it in Paris in June of 1996.
An American's response to the great architectural structures of European classical music.
Duration: 24:51 min.

WOODWIND QUINTET:

Woodwind Quintet: Three American Perennials (1974)
The movements are respectively ironical, expansive, and humorous.
I. Folk Dance, II. Sea Chanty, III. Ragtime
Duration: 12:28

WIND OCTET:

“Audubon” for wind octet (2 oboes, 2 clarinets, 2 Fr.horns, 2 bassoons); one movement (2006)
Musical portrait of the ideals and achievements of John James Audubon.
Duration: 11:20

FOR CLARINET AND ORCHESTRA:

The View from Carew: Romance for clarinet & orchestra (2000)
This piece can stand alone but it is also the second movements of my clarinet concerto.
Duration: 10:51

Concerto for Bb Clarinet & Orchestra. three movements (2007)

Duration: 30:17

Concerto for Cello & Strings with A clarinet. four movements (2006)

Written for Bulgarian cellist Kalin Ivanov who premiered it in Carnegie Hall.

I. Hymns & Fugues, II. Bulgarian Blues, III. Sorbet, IV. Finale.

Duration: 22:40