

Lisa Bielawa

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Note

Premieres: 2000-2003, Cape May Festival Orchestra, conducted by Stephen Rogers Radcliffe, and Bay Atlantic Symphony, conducted by Jed Gaylin

Duration: Suite of selected short works – 15'
All 31 short pieces – c. 45'

Orch: 2(Pic) 2(Eng Hn) 22; 4221; Timp+2Perc; Strings

These 31 short (1'-2'30") pieces were written over the course of three years (2000-2003) during which Bielawa was composer-in-residence with the Cape May Music Festival in Southern New Jersey. The pieces, presented each year as *Cape May Pictures I, II* and *III*, respectively, were the results of a large-scale collaboration between Bielawa, schoolchildren in grades 2-12, music and art teachers, classroom teachers, and the Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts in Cape May, NJ, which facilitated in-classroom sessions with the composer over the course of 4-5 months in advance of each performance.

Based on a similar program created by Maestro Radcliffe and realized with the Sioux City Symphony, the *Cape May Suite* project was a multi-faceted arts education initiative. Children from schools all over Southern New Jersey were invited to make non-representational artworks, which were collected and re-distributed to other schools, where music teachers or, in some cases, the composer herself, asked students to respond to the paintings with musical ideas. Bielawa writes, "My role in this project was to compose suites of pieces corresponding to individual student artworks, according to the musical ideas provided by the music students. These ideas took many forms: with older students there were even notated melodies and thematic materials; with younger students and students with no previous musical education, we discussed orchestrational and timbral ideas, structural and pacing suggestions, and even stories (programs) which the artworks evoked."

The movements included on the demo CD form a short suite suitable for programming on a standard orchestra concert. All 31 short pieces are available for perusal and rental, and they may be mixed and matched. Digital projected images of the children's artworks corresponding to each piece are also available, and were projected on a screen behind the orchestra in each premiere performance.

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