

Winter Fantasia

Lisa Bielawa

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Note

Premiere: February 19, 2012, King's Chapel, Boston, MA. commissioned by organist Heinrich Christensen and cellist Rafael Popper-Keizer

Duration: 5'
Instrumentation: For violincello and organ

Written expressly for the Fisk organ at King's Chapel in Boston, but composed primarily on a "sister" Fisk instrument housed at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor in chilly January, this Fantasy celebrates cellist Rafael Popper-Keizer's passionate yet intimate tone. I find it fascinating to pair these two instruments – each capable of amazing sonic and expressive effects that are completely outside the vocabulary of the other. Sometimes this contrast is most palpable because the instruments are doing such different things, and other times because they are doing similar things. I am grateful to my mother, organist Sandra Soderlund, whose guide to the pipe organ for composers (dedicated to my brother and me) was invaluable, and whose advice and camaraderie made the whole process richer.

– Lisa Bielawa

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