

Double Duet

Lisa Bielawa

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Note

Premiere: Premiered October 1, 2010 by the Washington Saxophone Quartet, Arlington, VA.
Commissioned by Larry Hewes for the Washington Saxophone Quartet.

Duration: 15'
Instrumentation: Saxophone Quartet

Sitting at a piano with a pencil and paper, playing a saxophone, coming together with other people in a place to hear music as it happens, waking up each day with a person for 50 years – these are some of the things that make up the technologically unmediated aspect of life. So much of what we do and are operates on a virtual plane, a plane that nevertheless borrows its language from the natural world (“tweet” is a great example). So when I went to google the word “relational” I was not surprised to find a lot about relational databases, relational investors, relational technology solutions... but the first two Webster-dictionary definitions of “relational” are as follows: “1. of or relating to kinship, 2. characterized or constituted by relations.” This piece – written to celebrate the 50th anniversary of a wonderful couple, Larry and Mary Hewes; written in memory of their dear family friend Randy Hostetler, a young composer whose too-short life and vital work continues to challenge me to be open-hearted in my life and inventive in my work; written for the Washington Saxophone Quartet, who gave the premiere of Randy’s “25 Years” 25 years ago, on a similar occasion – cannot escape being Relational. And so, because it is full of these multiple dialogues, spanning time in multiple directions, this piece needed to be a Double Duet. A duet of two duets. Some dialogues are private, some last 50 years, some last one evening, and all are related to kinship.

– Lisa Bielawa

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