

# Lisa Bielawa

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## Note

Premiere: December 3, 2016, Bob Carr Theater, Orlando, FL. Orchestral version commissioned and premiered by the Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra, Eric Jacobsen, conductor  
Duration: 5'  
Instrumentation: Chamber Orchestra (2\*210; 2220; strings)

*Drama/Self Pity* for orchestra is a five-minute piece adapted from a movement of my work *Chance Encounter*, a dramatic piece comprising songs and arias constructed of speech overheard in transient public spaces, which was premiered by soprano Susan Narucki and The Knights in Lower Manhattan's Seward Park. A project of Creative Capital, the 35-minute work has since been performed at the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York, in Vancouver, Venice, and in Rome on the banks of the Tiber River in partnership with urban place-maker Robert Hammond, a founder of The High Line in New York. In the orchestral version, commissioned and premiered by the Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra, I have cast the orchestra as a disgruntled urban populace, led by two trumpeters with escalating, competing complaints.

The overheard snippets that inspired *Drama/Self Pity* were collected and culled together on the basis of their whining nature: "I'm always on the wrong side"; "It's not my fault"; "I missed the announcement"; and my favorite, overheard by Eric Jacobsen and texted to me while I was composing: "Do you solve everything by crying?" In the end, this short piece invites a playfully cathartic response to the many small irritants of modern life that we all share, grudgingly.

– Lisa Bielawa

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