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LAURENCE SHERR: CHAMBER MUSIC FOR FLUTE

By

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ABSTRACT

Laurence Sherr is a contemporary American composer with his own unique and recognizable compositional voice. His three chamber works for flute, *Dhammapada Verses* (1990, rev. 2001) for soprano, flute, percussion, and piano; *Journeys Within: Concerto for Flute and Chamber Ensemble* (1994); and *Duo Concertante* for flute and percussion (2003), are valuable contributions to the repertoire that present a challenge to the performers while remaining accessible to audiences. Two significant characteristics of these pieces are the exploration of tone colors, and the composer's particularly close collaboration with performers during the compositional process. In addition, the works were all influenced by text, two by the writings of Eastern religious philosophies.

As a composer, Sherr is beginning to make an impact in the new music community and is gaining national recognition. His music has been performed throughout the United States, as well as abroad, and he has received numerous prizes.

This treatise will establish Laurence Sherr among his contemporaries and present his biography, including the family history of his Jewish immigrant parents and his development as a composer. Sherr's three chamber works for flute will be examined with research into their geneses, analyses of their content, and rehearsal suggestions for performers. My goal is to present the flute music of this lesser-known composer in an attempt to bring his compositions to the attention of future performers.