

Serendipity – For Vibraphone & Bassoon

Program Notes

Inspired by my experiences taking woodwind methods as an undergraduate music education major, this duet is a dialogue between what was, at the time, an old love (vibraphone) and a new one (bassoon). In a brief serendipitous encounter, these two unlikely voices engage in a brief musical interaction shaped by their unique identities and backgrounds. The vibraphone initiates the piece, inviting the bassoon to join it in an exploration of its jazz roots. In the B section, the bassoon reciprocates with a somewhat ponderous waltz, featuring imitation that is an homage both to Bach and to the bassoon's origins in western classical music. The piece concludes with a variation of the A section, where both instruments echo a single idea, affirming a positive experience for both parties and laying the foundation for future interactions. In addition to exploring two instruments I love, this piece navigates the importance of both popular music and the western classical tradition in shaping my musical identity—as a listener, as a performer, and as a researcher.