

*Commissioned by and written for Mark Lieb, clarinet, and the Phoenix Ensemble*

***Instrumentation:***

*Clarinet in Bb*

*2 Violins*

*Viola*

*Cello*

*My Clarinet Quintet began with the idea of canons, and they are embedded throughout the work, sometimes traditional, sometimes in a more contemporary interpretation of the technique. The opening of the work is a large mensuration canon, whose five parts arrive at their climatic common conclusion to release a “cascade” that drives the music into the next movement. It is a set of variations on an original tune, which for me is a strange intersection between Appalachian hymnody and Buddhist chant, two sides of my personality and history. The final movement is quite rigorous in its process and structure, but I hope suggests a vision of serene order, a kind of unearthly beauty. It also gradually unmasks the overtone-derived harmonic “ladders” which underlie the entire work.*

*Like much of my music, there’s an element of spiritual journey driving the flow of the music, but I hope such only gives the music a particular character and energy, and does not render it merely symbolic of something “higher”. The sounds are their own justification.*

---Robert Carl

***Timing:***

*Mvt. 1: 8’*

*Mvt. 2: 9’*

*Mvt. 3: 4.5’*

***Total: 21.5’***