

Wind Octet

The *Wind Octet* was composed as a companion piece to Mozart's *C Minor Wind Serenade*, and premiered alongside it. In addition to writing for the same instrumentation, I wanted to find a way to channel the spirit of Mozart's work, but to re-interpret it in my own way. One thing I love about Mozart's wind writing is his combination of sonic resonance and clarity of texture. His works have a lush and rich sound, yet they are always clear and balanced, never heavy or bloated. I looked carefully at how Mozart voices his harmonies and utilizes the colors of the different instruments, and tried to learn as much as I could from his techniques. I also wanted to tap into the dramatic power of the *C Minor Serenade*, with its wide range and depth of emotion. Mozart's classical forms and refined technique in no way limit the emotional intensity of his music, and I wanted to achieve something similar in my own work. From my own style and background I brought, first, an expanded harmonic palette, encompassing both clear Mozartean consonances, as well as cloudier, murkier, more dissonant sounds; and second, the propulsive rhythmic drive of contemporary vernacular styles and minimalist music. The resulting piece is dark and driving, but with a Mozartean resonance and clarity of texture. My hope is certainly not that I have surpassed or even equaled Mozart's work, but simply that I have succeeded in casting Mozart's masterpiece in a new light, and have given musicians and audiences an enjoyable new take on the same instrumentation.