

Three Segments (2012)

Sandra Flesher

Sandra Flesher's *Three Segments* was originally written in 1978 for oboe, violin, and piano, and dedicated to her then husband, violinist Frederick Halgedahl, with whom she premiered the work at the University of Oklahoma. Sandra and Elsa are old friends and former colleagues in the Eastman Wind Ensemble under Frederick Fennell and the Eastman Philharmonia under Howard Hanson. Wishing to contribute some repertoire for the Verdehr Trio, Ms. Flesher's took her current husband and copyist's suggestion that the *Three Segments* would sound quite splendid if revised for clarinet with perhaps the ending slow movement, *Valse Lente*, moved to the middle position. The *Energico* movement was also expanded somewhat as a new ending, and that version is the one being premiered on this recital.

The world premiere of *Three Segments* was on March 18, 2012 at The Phillips Collection, Washington, D.C.

Sandra Flesher received bachelor and master degrees with a Performer's Certificate from the Eastman School of Music where she studied oboe with Robert Sprenkle. More recently her teachers included Ray Still and John Mack. She held positions as principal oboist of the Milwaukee Symphony, Tulsa Philharmonic, the Hamilton (Canada) Philharmonic, and as oboist/English hornist with the Toronto Symphony and National Ballet of Canada. She is currently retired as Principal Oboe Laureate/English horn soloist of the Oklahoma City Philharmonic.

Flesher served on the faculties of four Oklahoma Universities and was Artist-In-Residence at L'Ecole des Americains under Nadia Boulanger at Fontainebleau, France. She has performed in Carnegie Recital Hall, the Library of Congress, and as a recitalist on the CBC. In the summer months for forty-four seasons, she played principal oboe at the New Hampshire Music Festival where several of her compositions were premiered. She also served as Chamber Music Coordinator for the Festival.