

Inflections

To Julieta Ugartemendia

I derived my inspiration for *Inflections* from Berio's *Sequenza VII* for oboe solo. That famous work features a virtuosic oboe part, based upon a very deliberate and elaborate system, set against a drone which sustains for the entire duration. When I encountered this piece, I found myself especially intrigued by the registral treatment of the oboe in relation to the drone. Whereas in Berio's work the oboe gradually moves away from a single, stationary pitch, in my piece I decided to set three voices against each other in such a way that the two outside voices (violin and cello) begin at extreme distances from one another and gradually collapse into the center of the third voice's (clarinet) range. For the clarinet's role, I began with inflections of the pitch at the center and proceeded by expanding these in opposition to that of the counterpart players, that is by gradually expanding away from the center. The result is akin to inflections under different magnifications of a microscope. *Inflections* was commissioned by Julieta Ugartemendia. - JJO