

# The Elements of Wind and Wood for Woodwind Quintet

Composed 1990, drastically re-written May-June 6, 2004

Duration: about 15 minutes 30 seconds

In 1990 I wrote several works for my friend Fred Robinson who was the composer/arranger at Warner Robins Air Force Base in Georgia. Among these was a work for jazz band (*The Popular Music of Planet X*), a movement for brass quintet, and a short woodwind quintet. The Air Force didn't seem to appreciate the effort, and the score and parts were returned. (When you bomb with the Air Force....you *REALLY BOMB!*)

In 1991, all of my scores were thrown into the landfill by my landlord as I was led off to five years in prison for LSD. I didn't get back to composition until 2003. By then I had collected many scores from several musicians in pristine condition, as they had never been performed. Then in 2004 I went back to most of these scores, and I completely rewrote this woodwind quintet. My uncle, David Vanderkooi, lives in Nashville, and at the memorial service there for my mother Frances Westman in 2005 I met his friend oboist Roger Wiesmeyer. He was kind enough to get other members of the Nashville Symphony together to perform *Elements of Wind and Wood* that November. However, I was unable to get to Nashville for either rehearsals or performance. I was sent a sample recording of a rehearsal to review. It was significantly too fast in the second and third movements, but I used Sonar to slow down the music and make a fresh recording. As there was a mistake in the horn part in the first movement, the recording was not together for a bit in that movement.

Unfortunately, Roger's laptop was stolen after the performance, and it held the only copy of the recording of the performance. As a result, all I have for now is the digitally massaged rehearsal tape posted here. I am hoping that a woodwind quintet will perform and record this piece before too long so that I can present a more polished version, as well as a video.

Sometimes life is not so easy.

## Bill Robinson

Publisher Parrish Press, Raleigh NC First Edition June 2004  
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