

# **Concertino for Wind Orchestra**

Ralph Hultgren

Commissioned by the University of St Thomas, St Paul  
Minnesota, Dr Matthew George, Conductor

## Concertino for Wind Orchestra

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Notes from the composer to you, the listener

My endeavour with this work was to write a work that had a feature for each section only with a finale embracing them all. What developed was a work that featured brass and percussion, in the main, to begin, woodwind next and then everyone in a flurry at the end. What I have written is less programmatic than my usual output and that was part of my aim. I also wanted to write a work that gave time for the players to focus on making music and not scramble to acquit all the notes. My success in all these areas is best decided by you, the listener.

The first movement, *Con Forza*, is about power. It is not about aggression but about potency. The drums are foreboding, like parade ground drums, and not marching band drums. The brass themes resonate with power - loudness is not the demand but power is. The woodwinds spurt out flourishes, outline the brass force, and giving energy to the lines of power presented.

*Semplice* is about simplicity in melody; the melodic material is never fast; it simply floats and glides around gently. Flute in its lowest register is a delight to me. It has a quality close to the voice I think. This movement is like chamber music and the brass and percussion just add occasional depth and fullness. Mainly it is about woodwind with a dash of piano and percussion – just a hint though.

*Con Brio* - with vigour indeed! Here the ensemble join forces to present material, dispute outcomes, decide direction and mull over previous thoughts and ideas. The melodic material is connected solidly to the music of the previous two movements. The melody that presents in oboe at bar 64 is a variation of the melody in the flute to open the second movement but dressed more vibrantly and singing with more joy and less pensive. The melody at the end that starts in the horns is from movement one – power and potency returns to dominate but not to crush. This is energy - vigour - and flashes of colour interspersed with jabs of light and dark.