

Winter Music for flute, oboe, clarinet, trumpet, celesta and bells (1990)

Like *Layers*, this short piece was commissioned by the distinctive new-music group Sounds Positive. Its character was to a great extent determined by the circumscribed - but seemingly inexhaustible - nature of the medium: three wind and one brass, all restricted within the treble clef. 'Problems' of register and timbre appeared especially to yield fresh possibilities of texture and colour. (But I also cheated a bit by adding bells, crotales and wind-chimes, to provide an aura of resonance). The work was composed during the limbo of winter, 1989-90, a dark period of my life.

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