

Une Cité Moderne

Concerto for oboe and chamber orchestra [2, 1, 2, 1 – 1, 1, 1, 0 – 1 perc – str (6-6-4-4-2)]

- I. Beffroi (Hommage à Vierne)
- II. École Primaire (Hommage à Debussy)
- III. Halles (Hommage à Poulenc)
- IV. Bureau de Postes (Hommage à Honegger)
- V. Magasin de Nouveautés (Hommage à Satie)
- VI. Église (Hommage à Messiaen)
- VII. Cinéma (Hommage à Ravel)

20 minutes

Brooke Joyce (2013)

Commissioned and premiered by the Waterloo-Cedar Falls Symphony, Jason Weinberger, conductor, April 2014
Dedicated to Heather Armstrong

Program Note:

Une Cité Moderne is a set of architectural drawings by Robert Mallet-Stevens, published in 1921. These 32 ink drawings with splashes of color depict an imaginary city of the future, with examples of public buildings, restaurants, homes and schools. Although none of these designs were built, they represent a playful and beautiful vision of modernity. Heather Armstrong and I chose seven of these drawings as starting points for this concerto, imagining how seven French composers, contemporaries of Mallet-Stevens, might have responded to his work. So, if the resulting music sounds steeped in 1920's Paris, that's intentional. One might imagine a citizen of this modern city awakened by the sounds of the *be_roi* (bell tower), dropping o_ children at the *école primaire* (school), doing some shopping at the *halles* (market), doing an errand at the *bureau de poste* (post o_ce), stopping to buy a gift at the *magasin de nouveautés* (novelty shop), attending a late afternoon service at the *église* (church), and ending the day at the *cinéma*.