

Winter Constellations  
for violin, clarinet and piano

14 minutes

Brooke Joyce (2001)

Commissioned and premiered by the Verdehr Trio, 2001

Program Note:

*Winter Constellations* was composed in January and February of 2001 for the Verdehr Trio and is dedicated to them. The title refers both to the season in which the music was written as well as the idea of musical constellations formed by combinations of the three instruments. The piece is divided into seven parts, each of which is played by a unique solo instrument or duo (IV is the only section where all three instruments play together): I - clarinet; II - clarinet and violin; III - violin and piano; IV - trio; V - clarinet and piano; VI - piano; VII – violin. The proportions for each segment were determined by adopting the Jo-Ha-Kyu structure suggested by Japanese Noh theater, in which the Jo is a rising introduction, the Ha is a scattering or development, and the Kyu is a quick resolution.