***PARALLEL UNIVERSE***

for flute, oboe, clarinet and bassoon

(2016, 11 minutes, in four movements)

*Parallel Universe* was commissioned by an international consortium of woodwind artists, ensembles and band directors. Its name is inspired by the linear concept of the beginning of its first movement, *Swirl,* in which flute, oboe and clarinet move in parallel intervals. This idea slowly gets deconstructed over the course of the piece, until in the last movement almost none of it is left.

*1. Swirl* is a fast movement named descriptively after the swirling effect of its woodwind flourishes. *2. Round and Round* is a - at times wicked – waltz featuring abrupt silences and the occasional diversion from the usual 3/4 measure.

*3. Introductions and Discourse* is just that, a musical rendition of a lively discussion among four individuals. The bassoon gets everything started, then the other instruments briefly introduce themselves. Call and response situations are common in this movement. Its middle section consists of one-on-one conversations between varying instruments. While the interchanges are partially heated, the discussion ends harmoniously. *4. Herb Pomeroy*  is named after one of the premier jazz educators of all time. Pomeroy played trumpet with greats such as Charlie Parker, Lionel Hampton and Stan Kenton. Later in life he taught at Berklee College of Music in Boston. His classes on Line Writing, and Writing in the style of Duke Ellington, became world renowned. This movement is dedicated to the musical essence of what Herb taught in his Line Writing classes - a linear style of multipart writing in rhythmic unison that creates slight harmonic ambiguity. *4. Herb Pomeroy* takes this concept a little further by abandoning the use of common jazz scales, and entering the atonal realm.

Gernot Wolfgang

Los Angles, October 2016