

## PROGRAM NOTE

*Rogue Emoji* is a work for mixed quartet (for Flute, Clarinet, Violin, and Cello) structured in a series of six miniatures which flow together without pause. Beneath its light surface is an exploration of order versus control and the embrace of chaos. The first movement introduces repeating patterns in vivid colours that are continuously warped, morphed, and interrupted, leading to a central arrival and erosion. The second movement is a melodrama; its lamenting melody is developed and expanded through colouristic interplay between the instruments. The third movement is a quick mixed-meter dance embodying pure visceral energy. The instruments (including the penetrating E-flat Clarinet) are paired in duets which respond to one another antiphonally, riffing obsessively on the movement's opening theme. The fourth movement is a meditation comprising solos that grow into cadenzas which showcase the individual instruments alone, spotlighting the alto flute and the bass clarinet. With the introduction of the piccolo in the fifth movement, the four individual voices are layered in a lyrical colloquy, each intoning separately in their own world. The sixth and final movement begins with an unrelenting ostinato that is hijacked by a fugue which falls apart, surrendering to a reprise of the first movement's energy. The piece ends with an expression of affirmation: A celebration of finding one's individual strength (and the ensemble's collective resonance) out of chaos; unity out of disconnection; regeneration from dissolution; and communication (connection) out of alienation. *Rogue Emoji* was commissioned for Hub New Music in 2019 by Ashmont Hill Chamber Music in Boston, with support from the Cricket Foundation.

Kati Agócs, 2022