

SHENANIGAN: PROGRAM NOTE

Shenanigan draws its inspiration from Reels that entered the musical tradition of Atlantic and French-speaking Canada in the waves of immigration from England and Ireland. I played with the symmetrical phrase structure and static harmony of the original improvised dances, developing the melodies and rhythms, infusing them with my own piquant harmonies, and interlacing iridescent orchestral colours. The resulting hybrid melds traditional Folk Reel with a full Symphonic palette. Running a bit under four minutes in length, Shenanigan features the principal flutist as a soloist. The work was commissioned in 2010 by James Sommerville, Music Director, for the Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra (Hamilton, Ontario, Canada).

- Kati Agócs