

Arias and Dances for Clarinet Quartet, Aldo Rafael Forte, Composer

Arias and Dances was composed in 1996 for the USAF Heritage of America Band Clarinet Quartet upon a request from its leader Peter Forman for a new work that the group could submit on their application to perform at the 1997 MidWest International Band and Orchestra Clinic in Chicago. Their application was accepted and the piece was premiered there in December 1997. The work is dedicated to the ensemble and to its members, Peter Forman, Alison Christofoli, Susan Stump, and Jennifer Littlehale (Lambert). They recorded the piece for CD release on the "Tableaux" album.

The piece is about 9 minutes in length. In the "Arias" section, each clarinet "sings" an aria while accompanied by the other three. After a brief pause, the "Dances" begin. This section is not "concerto - like" but instead brings the group together playing transformations of the melodies from the "Arias" section.