

Petite Overture for Wind Quintet

Aldo Rafael Forte

Petite Overture for Wind Quintet is one of four short wind quintets commissioned in the summer of 2006 by the MidWest Winds of the USAF Band of Mid America, Scott AFB, IL, as requested by the group's NCOIC and oboist MSgt Dawn Striker-Allan. I met Dawn in 1998 when she gave a superb performance of my *Elegy and Dance for Oboe and Band* with our mutual Alma Mater, the Tennessee Tech University Symphony Band. I was very impressed with her playing and thus I was elated when she called me and asked me to compose for her quintet. These commissions are also very special since they are the first works which I have composed for any USAF unit since my retirement from the United State Air Force in June 2006 after 26 years on active duty as a Composer/Arranger.

After my initial conversation with Dawn about the commission, she conferred with Capt. Donald Schofield, Commander/Conductor of the USAF Band of Mid-America, and they made suggestions as to the form which the commission would take. I thank Capt. Schofield and Dawn for this wonderful opportunity and I am thrilled to be composing for the MidWest Winds.

Petite Overture for Wind Quintet is a flashy and lively overture of just over 2 minutes in length which can serve as an opening piece on a chamber music program. Its bright and sunny ambience is akin to peppy works such as Glinka's *Overture to Ruslan and Ludmilla* and Bernstein's *Overture to Candide*. The piece is made up of several motifs, many of which are related to intervals found in the opening theme first stated by the clarinet in bars 3 – 6 of the work. These intervals as well as the themes are developed and collaged into an exciting atmosphere and are gradually recapped all the way to the end of the work.

Aldo Rafael Forte
Composer