

### ***Petite Suite for Clarinet Quartet, Aldo Rafael Forte, Composer***

Petite Suite was composed in 1994 for the USAF Heritage of America Band Clarinet Quartet upon a request from its leader Peter Forman for a new work. The work is dedicated to the ensemble and to its members, Peter Forman, Alison Christofoli, Susan Kautzmann (Stump) and Jennifer Littlehale (Lambert). They recorded the piece for CD release on the "Tales, Suites, and Divertimenti" album.

Although diminutive in length it is expansive in both range and color. Moving outward from the significant middle movement, Forte builds an almost symmetrical frame with short second and fourth movements. These in turn are framed by lively first and fifth movements. The work is playful in nature and often features tongue – in – cheek dissonances with rollicking tumbling passages in parallel thirds. IV. Chanson, only nine measures long, is inspired by the expanding and contracting of an accordion (all the instruments begin with tones close to each other. Then the "span of orchestration" grows larger only to begin compressing once again!