

## Oboe Music Reviews

By Brent Register  
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This review is devoted to oboe music which is currently available through the Sunshine Music Distribution Company. This includes publications by Nova Music and Useful Music. All editions reviewed are available from the **Sunshine Music Distribution Co., Inc., 407 North Grant Avenue, Suite 400, Columbus, Ohio 43215-2157. Telephone (614) 221-1917/ (800) 221-0711. Fax (614) 224-1009.** For the purpose of range in this review, middle c is denoted as c'. The catalog number and most recent price follows each entry by a number in parenthesis.

***Aspects of a Landscape***  
by Paul Reade (NM 237) (\$6.95)

Oboe Range: b-flat - e"  
Duration: 8 minutes

Described as "seven miniatures for unaccompanied oboe," *Aspects of a Landscape* was composed in 1981 and premiered by Sarah Francis at the Bracknell Festival in 1982. As described by the composer, "The mood for these pieces was set by a visit in winter to Blythburgh in Suffolk, where the marshes surround the ancient church. The scene reflects the timeless rituals of man and nature." Each movement is briefly described:

"Dawn (cold, grey light and first stirrings)" consists of slow, sustained phrases which alternate with a few fast, syncopated sections. The oboe range in these slower areas remains primarily above the staff.

"Birdsong" is a short, fast, and unmetred movement. The technical passages are frequently interrupted by grace note figures which emulate birdcalls. The dynamic range is wide.

"Bird-movements" is a quick movement. Although unmetred, the eighth-note remains constant.

"Sun Dance (two birds in the sunlight)" is in an implied 9/16 meter whereas the sixteenth note remains even throughout. This is one of the more technically demanding movements. There are fast, arpeggiated passages, large leaps in the range, and some rapid, articulated passages.

"Conflict (birds fighting)" is a short movement which begins slow but accelerates to a more rapid tempo. It is characterized by large leaps of more than one octave. The technical passages are accented and often staccato.

"Lament" is a slow movement in an implied triple meter. It is characterized by a reoccurring motive which requires quiet articulation in the low register.

"Celebration" recalls moments from the previous movements. The tempi and meter change frequently as various moods are depicted.

As a whole, *Aspects of a Landscape* can be an effective composition. The programmatic elements will certainly be appreciated by the audience. Control of range, dynamics, articulation, and technique are essential in order to accurately interpret the composer's intention. This piece would also be useful for teaching these concepts to intermediate students. As mentioned, each movement requires some challenge. Individual movements could be assigned to focus on specific issues.

***Threesome for Two Players***  
by David Dubery (SUN 105) (\$6.95)

Range: c' - e-flat"  
Duration: approximately 7 minutes

Subtitled "Sonatina for Oboe and Piano", *Threesome for Two Players* is a three-movement, tonal composition. Each movement is in ternary form. The premiere was performed by *The Verlaine Duo* (Jonathan Tobutt, oboe and David Leigh Dubery, piano) at St. Martin-in-the-Fields, London in 1986. The first movement, indicated *allegro vivace*, is characterized by driving, syncopated rhythms. A section of short, lyrical phrases briefly break this mood before continuing to a satisfying conclusion. The oboe passages are primarily scalar or arpeggiated. The second movement, marked *moderato*, is in triple meter. The oboe line has flowing phrases supported by a simple keyboard accompaniment. A "Quasi Chorale" section in mixed-meter briefly interrupts this movement before it returns to the previous material. The final movement is indicated as a *presto*. The short phrases in the oboe line are supported by arpeggios in the piano. The composition concludes with a brief, staccato *prestissimo* by the oboe.

Overall, *Threesome for Two Players* is a technically accessible composition for the oboist. There are very few fast notes. The phrases are primarily short with ample rests, and the range is obtainable by most intermediate students. The

piano part is not complicated, and the ensemble between the oboe and piano parts is not difficult. Of the three movements, the *allegro vivace* may be the most satisfying.

**Luquet (for solo cor anglais or oboe)**  
(NM 289) (\$8.00)

**Jamet de Saen-Troyes (for oboe and bassoon)**  
(NM 290) (\$8.00)

**Senia (for solo oboe) (NM 287) (\$8.00)**

by Paul Marshall Douglas

These three compositions by Douglas are listed together because they share similar characteristics in compositional style. They use traditional notation (with the exception of one brief passage in *Luquet*), and the harmonic structure often incorporates chromatic and whole-tone passages. Overall, these compositions are recommended for advanced performers. Musical comprehension may be difficult without full control of range, dynamics and technique. The duration of each composition is less than three minutes.

*Luquet*, composed in 1983 for either the English horn or the oboe, has a range from b (indicated to be a b-flat if performed on the oboe) to e-flat". The opening "Preludio" is unmetered and without a tempo indication. This section consists of short phrases, trills, and fast, repeated notes in the lower register. A *vivo* section in 6/8 meter follows. The section consists primarily of running sixteenth-note patterns encompassing the full range of the oboe. There is a noticeable lack of rests, so breathing might be difficult. After a brief return to the "Preludio" material, the movement ends with a bright, technical flourish.

*Jamet de Saen-Troyes*, composed for oboe and bassoon in 1989, is a short composition with a tempo indication of *allegro giusto*. The oboe range is d' - f'" while the bassoon range is C - a' with no tenor clef. The composition briefly hints at G-major with chromatic and whole-tone passages. There are areas of imitation between the two instruments, syncopated passages, and large interval leaps. Several passages have the two instruments playing large interval leaps in octaves. The dynamic range is wide.

*Senia* (dedicated to Senia Trubashnik) was composed in 1977. The oboe range is c' - f'" . The form of the composition is ternary. The opening *grave* is unmetered with several technical passages. This leads directly into a *vivo* in 4/4 meter. Fast, technical patterns alternate with more lyrical phrases. The opening *grave* returns for the soft, sustained conclusion.

***New Oboe Solos, Book 1***  
**(Beginners) by Graham Lyons (U 68) (\$7.50)**

Lyons has composed eleven compositions which young, beginning oboists will find fun, interesting, and helpful in their studies. The first work (with the catchy title "The Cool Camel") is a twelve-measure study of four notes (g', a', b' and c'") in quarter-note rhythms. The following solos, with titles such as "Snowflake," "Natasha's Hedgehog," and "Seaweed," slowly extend the oboe range (maximum d'-g'") and the phrase length. Rhythmic notation never exceeds an eighth-note value, and the melodies are primarily diatonic. The music is printed in large notes, and each solo is followed by a reprinting of the more difficult passages for the student to review. Each composition in *New Oboe Solos* includes a relatively simple piano accompaniment as well as a cassette tape accompaniment. The A-side contains the accompaniments played at a slow practice speed, while the B-side has the accompaniments at the correct tempo.

Young beginners will certainly enjoy working from *New Oboe Solos*. Older beginners, however, will probably not be impressed by the large-note format and programmatic titles. Due to the brevity of the solos, beginners will rapidly progress through the book. The accompaniment and additional cassette tape are excellent for encouraging good intonation. These solos are appropriate for insuring a positive performance debut by beginning oboists.

***24 Melodic Studies for Oboe***  
**by Graham Lyons (U 56) (\$6.95)**

This method, subtitled "for the first four years," presents twenty-four progressive etudes. The first etude begins with a range of g' - d'" in short, two-measure phrases. As the method progresses, the range and phrase lengths are slowly extended, accidentals are introduced, and the dynamic range is expanded. By the tenth etude compound meters and a variety of rhythms are explored. Ultimately, the method progresses to key signatures with four sharps or flats, and the oboe range expands to c' - e'" .

The method is thorough in the introduction of materials, and progresses in a logical manner. The large-note format is easy to read, and the melodies are interesting. Although dependent on many variables, there may not be ample material to challenge a student for four years of study. It is concluded that the subtitle implies that *24 Melodic Studies* could be used for a period *during* the

student's first four years of study. Naturally, this would depend on the ability of the student and frequency of lessons.

**Sonata (for two oboes)**  
by Graham Lyons (U 19) (\$8.95)

Oboe I range: c' - e'''  
Oboe II range: b - d'''

This three-movement composition is published as part of *Useful Music's Advanced Woodwind Series*. The title page indicates "Music for Professionals, Music Students and Talented Amateurs", and states:

Each piece in the series makes musical "sense" on first hearing. Although sometimes challenging, the parts are written with care to suit the character and technique of each instrument. The aim of this series is to provide contemporary music that is enjoyable for player and listener alike.

Lyons' *Sonata* is highly imitative, and generally rooted in tonality because of the extensive use of the interval of a third. The first movement, indicated as an *allegro*, is in ternary form. The soft, middle section progresses through a series of sequences which result in rapid key shifts. The movement is in triple meter. The second movement is a *lento*. The oboe parts are often imitative. This is possibly the most difficult movement for interpretation, with a sparse texture and long phrases. Frequent suspensions result in the dissonant quality of this movement. The final movement, *allegro molto e tempo vigoroso*, is more rhythmically and technically complex than the previous movements. The oboe lines consist primarily of sixteenth-note arpeggios which are imitative. There are some technically demanding passages in both parts.

Overall, *Sonata* is most appropriate for advanced musicians. Careful study is necessary to make sense of the harmonic progressions and to give life to the phrases. The use of thirds and octaves require exceptionally good intonation. Both parts are balanced in regard to ability-level, with the second part often playing above the first part. The score is clean and easy to read.

**Incantations (for solo oboe)**  
by Neil Saunders (NM 217) (\$6.95) (1982)

Range: b-flat - a''' (or g''')  
Duration: approximately 10 minutes

*Incantations* is a four-movement, atonal composition. The first movement is indicated as

*moderato* and is unmetred. The oboe range of this movement is wide. Saunders has composed one passage up to a''', but provides an optional section if this seems impractical. Aside from this one passage, the performer must have facility to g'''. The second movement is in 4/4 meter with complex rhythms and a wide dynamic range. The third movement is slow with a key signature of six flats, and the 12/8 meter contains some complex rhythms. With the exception of a few passages, the oboe range lies primarily above the staff. The movement ends quietly with a soft, sustained harmonic pitch. The final movement alternates between 6/8, 3/4 and 9/8 meters. The rhythms are complex with hemiola and syncopation. This movement presents some technical challenges with interval leaps of over two octaves. The dynamic range is wide, and there are some rapid, articulated passages.

An advanced oboist is necessary to perform *Incantations*. The piece requires technical facility throughout the entire oboe range, control of articulation and rhythm, and a wide dynamic range. Saunders has clearly indicated his intention with dynamic and phrase markings. Much thought is necessary to interpret the musical lines, which may be difficult for the performer and audience to comprehend. A bold approach is necessary to insure a successful performance.

**7 Great Tunes, Volume 1**  
(for oboe and piano) arranged by Duncan Reid  
(NM 421) (\$8.95) (1989)

Duncan Reid has arranged these seven familiar tunes (followed by the oboe range) for the oboe and piano:

Joplin	<i>The Entertainer</i>	(d' - b'')
Bach-Gounod	<i>Ave Maria</i>	(d' - b'')
Mozart	<i>Turkish Rondo</i>	(f-sharp' - b'')
(Traditional)	<i>Portsmouth</i>	(c' - a'')
Franck	<i>Panis Angelicus</i>	(f-sharp' - e'')
Verdi	<i>Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves</i>	(d' - g'')
(Traditional)	<i>Floral Dance</i>	(f-sharp' - g'')

These compositions are excellent for teachers who are looking for an accessible solo for intermediate oboists. Students will enjoy performing familiar music that also presents some musical challenges. The solos, although not especially difficult, are probably more appropriate for intermediate students. This is primarily due to the range and some sections of rhythm complexity. Several of the solos have some low entrances, and

ragas (i.e., "The Entertainer") require a secure sense of rhythm. These solos might also be useful for performers who are searching for light music for a concert or social function. The edition is clean and easy to read. The keyboard part has been arranged well and is not difficult.

***The Six Sonatas for Oboe and Basso Continuo, Op. 70, Nos. 1-3 and Op. 71, Nos. 1-3 by François Devienne (Edited by Peter Bree and Bernard Rose) (\$10.00 for each separate Sonata) (1989)***

(Editions available for review: Op. 70, No. 1 (NM 309) and Op. 70, No. 2 (NM 310))

François Devienne (1759-1803) was a French flutist/bassoonist during the Classical period. His compositional output of approximately 350 works are primarily composed for the woodwind instruments and, more specifically, the flute. According to the introduction:

The six sonatas for oboe and basso continuo are transcriptions of the six sonatas for flute and bass accompaniment which were composed in 1798/99 and published as opus 60 by Wheatstone in London, as opus 68 by Sieber in Paris, and as opus 73 by André in

Offenbach....Several sources may be consulted for a modern edition. The present editors have opted for the edition published by Jean Georges Sieber in Paris....

What editors Peter Bree and Bernard Rose present is a very scholarly edition of the Devienne *Sonatas*, Op. 70 and Op. 71. The editions are preceded by numerous editorial notes in regard to their choice of articulations, pitches, rhythms and tempi. Thus, these editions are highly edited. Each *Sonata* consists of three movements - an *allegro* first movement in sonata form, a slow second movement, and a third movement in rondo form.

The compositions work quite well for the oboe. The technical passages are accessible and comfortable on the oboe, the melodic lines are interesting, and the range is practical (generally d' - d'''). The editors have graciously provided alternative passages for more technical passages. The *Sonatas* are lengthy (approximately 12-15 minutes) and some of the phrases are very long. The compositions are appropriate for more advanced performers in search of a Classical composition to include on a recital. Each edition includes a separate basso part which can be performed by either the bassoon or cello. The continuo part is well-crafted, clean and accessible. ❖

Below is listed additional Sunshine Music Distribution Company, Inc. publications which include the oboe. The price quotes are based on the 1995 catalog.

**Solo Oboe**

Ball, Christopher	<i>The Pagan Piper</i> (NM 353) (\$6.95)
Hotteterre le Romain, J.C.	<i>Ornamented Airs and Brunettes</i> (NM 150) (\$11.00)
Pragnell, Irene	<i>A Helping Hand</i> (a complete guide to memorizing scales and arpeggios on the oboe) (NM 307) (\$7.50)
Richardson, Alan	<i>Three Pieces</i> (NM 184) (\$5.95)

**Two Oboes**

Boismortier, J.B.	<i>Six Concertos</i> , Op. 3 (EWE 1) (\$9.00)
Corrette, M.	<i>Six Sonatas</i> , Op. 2 (NM 165) (\$9.00)
Friedrichsen, J.M.	<i>Grandfather's Duet Book</i> (NM 117) (\$6.95)
Naudot, J.C.	<i>Six Sonatas</i> , Op. 5 (EWE 2) (\$9.00)
Quantz, J.J.	<i>Six Duetti</i> , Op. 2, Vol. 1 (Nos. 1-3) (NM 207a) (\$9.00)
Quantz, J.J.	<i>Six Duetti</i> , Op. 2, Vol. 2 (Nos. 4-6) (NM 207b) (\$9.00)
Richardson, Alan	<i>Sonatina</i> (NM 104) (\$6.00)
Sammartini, G.B.	<i>Six Sonatas</i> , Op. 4 (NM 151) (\$9.00)
(Various)	<i>Tête-à-Tête</i> , Vol. 1 (NM 274) (\$6.95)

**Oboe and One Other Instrument**

Ball, Christopher	<i>Homage to Haydn</i> (oboe, flute/recorder) (NM 245) (\$7.50)
Ball, Christopher	<i>Homage to Mozart</i> (oboe, flute/recorder) (NM 343) (\$7.50)
Ball, Christopher	<i>Homage to Rossini</i> (oboe, flute/recorder) (NM 346) (\$7.50)
Ball, Christopher	<i>Homage to Schubert</i> (oboe, flute/recorder) (NM 344) (\$7.50)
Besozzi, C.	<i>Sonata in C</i> (oboe, bassoon) (NM 155) (\$7.00)
Devienne, F.	<i>Six Duos</i> , Op. 74 (oboe, flute/recorder) (NM 340) (\$7.50)
Fiala, J.	<i>Duos Concertante</i> (Nos. 1-2) (oboe, bassoon) (NM 124) (\$8.00)
Morigi, A.	<i>Duetto</i> (oboe, bassoon) (NM 210) (\$8.00)
Mozart, W.A.	<i>Twelve Duets</i> , K. 487 (oboe, flute/recorder) (NM 341) (\$7.50)

**Three Oboes**

Quantz, J.J.	<i>Sonata in D</i> (K. 46) and <i>Sonatina in D</i> (NM 177) (\$9.00)
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**Oboe and Keyboard**

<i>Anthology - A 19th Century Collection</i> (3 volumes) (NM 391-93) (\$8.00 each)	
Bach, J.C.	<i>Concerto</i> , No. 2 in F (NM 131) (\$8.00)
Bach, J.S.	<i>Concerto in F</i> (NM 160) (\$9.00)
Beethoven, L. van	"Andante" from <i>Concerto in F</i> (reconstruction) (NM 185) (\$8.00)
Bissoli, M.	<i>Sonata in g minor</i> (NM 231) (\$8.00)
Butterworth, Neil	<i>Scherzo</i> (NM 230) (\$8.00)
Butterworth, Neil	<i>Pastorale</i> (NM 299) (\$5.00)
Chandler, Mary	<i>Three Dance Studies</i> (NM 298) (\$7.95)
Chopin/Rossini	<i>Variations</i> (NM 394) (\$8.00)
Dring, Madeleine	<i>Three Piece Suite</i> (NM 305) (\$10.00)
Fehr, F.J.	<i>Concerto in B-flat</i> (NM 246) (\$8.00)
Fiala, J.	<i>Concerto in B-flat</i> (NM 140) (\$8.00)
Gray, Vera	<i>Oboe Music to Enjoy</i> (4 books) (NM 395-98) (\$8.95 each)
Handel, G.F.	<i>The Three Authentic Sonatas</i> (NM 100) (\$11.00)
Higgins, Thomas	<i>Oboe Sounds</i> (orchestral solos w/ piano) (NM 211) (\$8.00)
Hotteterre le Romain, J.C.	<i>Suite in D</i> , Op. 2, No. 1 (NM 113) (\$9.00)
Hotteterre le Romain, J.C.	<i>Suites in G</i> , Op. 2 (Nos. 2a and 2b) (NM 134) (\$10.00)
Hotteterre le Romain, J.C.	<i>Suites in e minor</i> , Op. 2 (Nos. 3a and 3b) (NM 146) (\$10.00)
Kalliwoda, J.W.	<i>Morceau de Salon</i> , Op. 228 (NM 108) (\$9.00)
Kozeluch, J.A.	<i>Concerto in F</i> (NM 193) (\$8.00)
Krebs, J.L.	<i>Fantasia in g minor</i> (with organ) (NM 136) (\$8.00)
Lalliet, T.	<i>Prelude/Variations on "The Carnival of Venice"</i> (NM 161) (\$9.00)
Lampe, J.F.	<i>Two Songs from "The Dragon of Wantley"</i> (NM 214) (\$8.00)
Matthes, C.L.	<i>Sonata in E-flat</i> (NM 232) (\$8.00)
Notari, A.	<i>Canzona Passaggiata</i> (NM 166) (\$8.00)
Pepusch, J.C.	<i>Sonata in E-flat</i> (NM 233) (\$8.00)
Reade, Paul	<i>Suite from Jane Eyre</i> (NM 388) (\$8.00)
Reid, General John	<i>Sonatas</i> , Nos. 2 and 5 from Book II (EWE 7) (\$8.00)
Richardson, Alan	<i>Sonatina</i> , Op. 51 (NM 130) (\$8.00)
Schickhardt, J.C.	<i>Sonata in g minor</i> , Op. 2, No. 5 (NM 106) (\$8.00)
Stulick, M.N.	<i>Concerto à 5 in c minor</i> (NM 189) (\$8.00)
Sun Ilin	<i>The Countryside is my home</i> (NM 306) (\$8.00)
Weber, C.M. von	<i>Concertino</i> (NM 137) (\$8.00)

**Two Oboes with Keyboard (Basso Continuo)**

NM 127	Castello, D.	<i>Sonatas Nos. 3 and 4</i> (NM 127) (\$9.00)
NM 109	Finger, G.	<i>Sonata in B-flat</i> (NM 109) (\$9.00)
	Hotteterre le Romain, J.C.	<i>Trio Sonatas, Op. 3, Nos. 1-3</i> (NM 156) (\$11.00)
	Hotteterre le Romain, J.C.	<i>Trio Sonatas, Op. 3, Nos. 4-6</i> (NM 159) (\$11.00)
	Pezel, J.	<i>Six Sonatinas</i> (Nos. 1-3, 7, 9, 11) (NM 112) (\$9.00)
	Quantz, J.J.	<i>Trio Sonata in e minor, K. 28</i> (NM 133) (\$9.00)
	Quantz, J.J.	<i>Trio Sonata in c minor, K. 33</i> (NM 138) (\$9.00)

**Oboe, One Other Instrument and Keyboard (Basso Continuo)**

	Boismortier, J.B.	<i>Sonata in G, Op. 37, No. 1</i> (oboe, bassoon) (NM 197) (\$9.00)
	Dring, Madeleine	<i>Trio</i> (oboe, bassoon) (NM 203) (\$11.00)
	Finger, G.	<i>Sonata in C</i> (oboe, violin) (NM 115) (\$9.00)
	Finger, G.	<i>Sonata in C, Op. 5, No. 10</i> (oboe, bassoon) (NM 129) (\$9.00)
	Keller, G.	<i>Trio Sonata in B-flat</i> (oboe, recorder/violin) (NM 153) (\$8.00)
	Kempis, N. a.	<i>Symphonia à 2, Op. 3/XVIII</i> (oboe, bassoon) (NM 114) (\$8.00)
	Quantz, J.J.	<i>Trio Sonata in G, K. 45</i> (oboe, bassoon) (NM 103) (\$9.00)
	Richter, J.C.	<i>Trio Sonata in G</i> (oboe, flute/recorder/violin) (NM 226) (\$9.00)

**Two Oboes, Two Other Instruments and Keyboard (Basso Continuo)**

	Finger, G.	<i>Two Sonatas, No. 3 in g minor and No. 4 in F</i> (2 oboes, 2 flutes/recorders/violins) (NM 144) (\$9.00)
	Keller, G.	<i>Sonata in G</i> (2 oboes, 2 flutes/recorders/violins) (NM 101) (\$9.00)
	Keller, G.	<i>Sonata in C</i> (2 oboes, 2 flutes/recorders/violins) (NM 196) (\$9.00)
	Molter, J.M.	<i>Sonata à 4 in F</i> (ob, vln, vla, cello, B.C.) (NM 188) (\$9.00)
	Theile, J.	<i>Sonata à 4</i> (2 oboes, trombone, bassoon, B.C.) (NM 167) (\$9.00)

**Trios Including Oboe**

	Cormier, C.	<i>Sonata in C</i> (2 oboes, bassoon/cello) (NM 142) (\$8.00)
	Holborne, A.	<i>Two fantasias in 3 parts</i> (2 oboes, bassoon/cello) (NM 221) (\$7.00)
	Pezel, J.	<i>Eighteen Pieces</i> (2 oboes, bassoon/cello) (NM 186) (\$9.00)
	Saunders, Neil	<i>Trio</i> (oboe and 2 English horns) (NM 267) (\$9.00)

**Oboe Quartets**

	Haydn, F.J.	<i>Quartet in F, Op. 50, No. 5</i> (ob, vln, vla, cello) (NM 213) (\$11.00)
	Molter, J.M.	<i>Sonata à 4 in F</i> (ob, vln, vla, cello) (NM 188) (\$9.00)

**Oboe and Voice**

	Sacchini, A.	Offertorium: <i>Amavit Eum</i> (NM 259) (\$10.00)
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**Oboe Band**

*Anthology - Music from the Court of the Sun King*, including pieces by Pez, Krieger, Dornel, Paisible and Lully (2 oboes, English horn, bassoon) (NM 174) (\$11.00)