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The Arizona State University Percussion/Clarinet Duo Robert Spring, Clarinet J.B. Smith, Percussion

Robert Spring Clarinet
Illinois State University

J. B. Smith Percussion

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Music Department
Illinois State University

The Arizona State University Percussion/Clarinet Duo

Robert Spring, *Clarinet*

J. B. Smith, *Percussion*

Corker (1989)

Libby Larsen
(born 1950)

Dialogue (1981)
Allegro moderato
Allegro
Moderato

Robert Schietroma

Going Home, In Memoriam Peter Lewis (1985)

Edward Miller

Prelude and Licks (1981)

Chester Mais

Intermission

Points in the Sky

Glenn Hackbarth

Illegible Canons (1973)
Allegro
Lento
Allegro vivo

William Bergsma
(born 1921)

In Light of Three (1988)

J. B. Smith

Kemp Recital Hall
Sunday Evening
January 29
8:00 pm

Sixty-third program of the 1994-95 season.

The ASU Percussion/Clarinet Duo was founded in September of 1988. Since that time we have undertaken several successful tours and have performed for the 1991 International Clarinet Society/Clar-fest International Convention. We have set upon the task of commissioning new works for the medium and have prepared several clarinet/percussion chamber works through the direction and consultation of the composer. These composers include, among others, Joan Tower, Libby Larsen and David Stock.

Our ensemble was formed as a direct result of our desire to give high quality performances of new music of the highest caliber. The unique timbre of the percussion/clarinet duo has intrigued living composers and gives us a wealth of music. We believe that this sound provides a great performance outlet for the serious clarinetist and percussionist.

Robert Spring is Professor of Clarinet at Arizona State University. He holds the Bachelor of Music in Instrumental Music Education, the Master of Music in Wind Instruments, and the Doctor of Musical Arts degrees from the University of Michigan and has studied clarinet with John Mohler, David Shifrin and Paul Shaller. Spring has served as clinician, adjudicator and soloist with bands and orchestras in the Midwest and Southwest and teaches on the faculties of several summer music festivals.

Dr. Spring has been described as, "one of this country's most sensitive and talented clarinetists" (Arizona Republic), "dazzled his audience...flawless technique" (The Clarinet Magazine) and "a formidable soloist...played with great emotional life" (Copenhagen, Denmark, Politiken). He has several recordings to his credit including the first recordings of Grawemeier Award winning composer Joan Tower's works for clarinet. This recording was described by The Clarinet Magazine as "truly outstanding....one would be hard pressed to find better performances of contemporary music....first rate music performed with the

highest professional standards." A new recording, "Dragon's Tongue", a CD of virtuoso music for clarinet and wind band, was released in April, 1994. The Instrumentalist Magazine says, "His musicality and technique make this recording a must for every C.D. collection." Spring has published numerous articles on multiple articulation and other contemporary clarinet techniques.

Spring previously taught at West Texas State University, Morningside College (Sioux City, IA), Albion College (Michigan) and in the Jackson Public Schools (Michigan). He has been a member of the Amarillo (TX) Symphony, the Sioux City (IA) Symphony, the South Dakota Symphony, the Arizona Ballet Orchestra, and has performed for the 1988 and 1991 International Clarinet Society/Clar-Fest conventions, and will host the 1995 International Clarinet Association Clarinetfest at Arizona State University.

J. B. Smith is Associate Professor of Music and the Coordinator of Percussion Studies at Arizona State University. He is director of the ASU Percussion Ensemble, which toured Russia and Poland in 1990 and performed at the Percussive Arts Society International Convention in Anaheim in 1991. The group recently commissioned and premiered two new works for percussion: Anthony Braxton's Composition No. 174 for Percussion Ensemble and Constructed Environment and Mary Ellen Childs' Crash. Dr. Smith also directs the Pandevils Steel Drum Band. He served as principal percussionist with Ensemble 21 under the direction of Arthur Weisberg, percussionist with The Daniel Lentz Group, percussionist for contemporary chamber group Montage Quartet, and is the music liaison for ASU's Institute for Studies in the Arts. He plays percussion with the internationally acclaimed Summit Brass and performs with the Phoenix Symphony. He has recorded for Summit, Koch, Fontec and Canyon Records.

He received his Bachelor of Music Education degree from Baylor University, his Master of Music in Percussion Performance and Literature degree from the University of Illinois and his Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of North Texas. He has studied with Larry Vanlandingham, Thomas Siwe and Robert Schietroma. Previously, Dr. Smith was on the music faculties of Tarleton State University in Stephenville, Texas and Humboldt State University in Arcata, California. He has written articles for The Instrumentalist and Percussive Notes and served as president of the Arizona chapter of the Percussive Arts Society. Dr. Smith will be hosting the 1995 Percussive Arts Society International Convention in Phoenix. He is also active as a composer, with numerous works published by Whole >Sum Productions Press.