

TRIFOCALS

snapshots of a tropical island

for flute, clarinet and bassoon

in Five Movements to be performed in any order:

Ojalá
Before the Rain
Slave Castles
Innuendo
Trois Oiseaux

*in memory of photographer/artist Franklin Gay;
dedicated to Doreen and Janice*

AMY RUBIN

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TRIFOCALS

snapshots of a tropical island

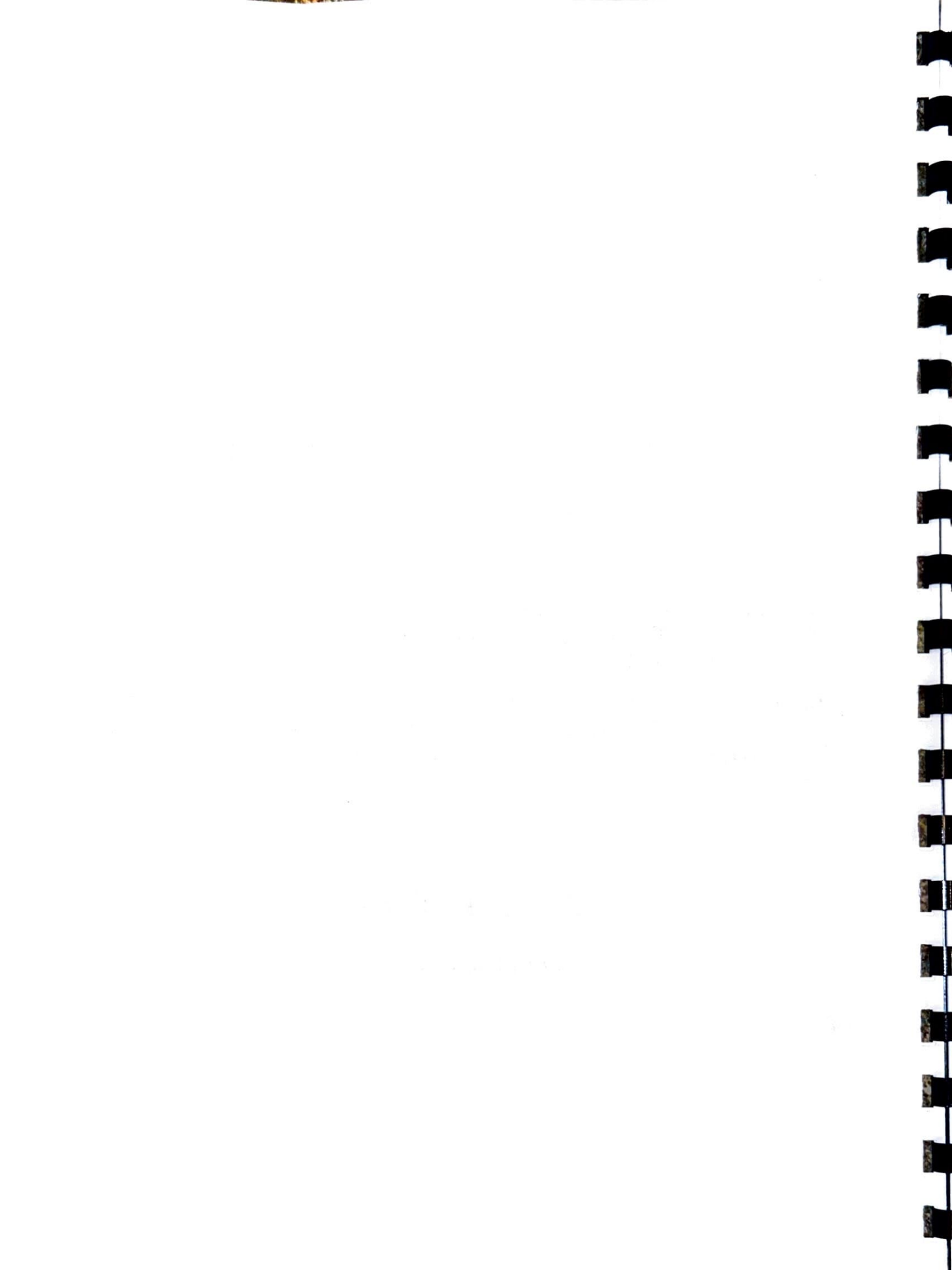
for flute, clarinet and bassoon

Trifocals: Snapshots of a Tropical Island was composed in memory of photographer/artist Franklin Gay and is dedicated to his daughter Doreen and wife Janice who are members of my family.

Trifocals was sketched in August 1996 on the island of Curacao and premiered in November 1996 at New York's Weill Recital Hall by members of Musicians' Accord. Dramatically each short movement suggests a fleeting snapshot.... a moment of island life.

AMY RUBIN

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PERFORMANCE NOTES

A number of the movements are constructed as "games" which encourage the players to make rehearsal/performance choices which shape the pieces and lead to greater spontaneity. The order of movements should be determined by the ensemble but all five movements must be performed only once each. The piece should be performed as seamlessly as possible, without pauses between movements.

"OJALÁ" ("if God wills it I hope it will happen") reflects the ever-changing and elusive patterns of events as they unfold before us, and as we unfold them. "OJALÁ" is a game of spontaneous deletion in which players may omit any groups of notes or single notes which lie inside the parentheses.

"BEFORE THE RAIN" is the shortest snapshot and evokes the sound of birds before a storm. There is no game element present.

"SLAVE CASTLES" refers to the dark history of slavery on this island; this "game" is a rhythmic one where unmeasured ad lib blues lines for clarinet are juxtaposed against the fixed lines of the remaining two players. Ornamentation may include glisses, bent pitches and "blue" (flatted) notes.

"INNUENDO" is a game of flirtation. Rhythmically precise but punctuated by pregnant pauses, it should be played expressively to capture the dramatic intent indicated by the title.

"TROIS OISEAUX" ("three birds") was inspired by the amazing bird calls heard throughout the day and evening on Curacao. Of all the movements, it offers the players the greatest freedom. Players may choose:

the order of cells, number of repetitions for each cell, points of entrance for each player within cells, when to play only a fragment of a cell and repeat this fragment, and finally, which player cues the advancing of the group to the next cell and in what manner. Players need not move from cell to cell at the same time or with the same pacing; cells should overlap. The length of this movement should be between 1½ and 2½ minutes.

In some movements high number meters are given (21/8, 17/8, etc.). These are only indications of large phrases; throughout all movements, players should be feeling groups of 2s and 3s.

Ojalá

Presto

Flute

Clarinet (Bb)

Bassoon

mf

mf

mf

Detailed description: This block contains the first system of the Presto section. It features three staves: Flute (top), Clarinet in Bb (middle), and Bassoon (bottom). The Flute part begins with a first-measure rest, followed by a melodic line starting at measure 17. The Clarinet and Bassoon parts also have first-measure rests and enter at measure 16. The music is in 4/4 time and marked *mf* (mezzo-forte). The Flute part includes slurs and accents. The Clarinet part has slurs and accents. The Bassoon part has slurs and accents.

Lyricaly

Fl

Cl

Bsn

fp

mp

fp

Detailed description: This block contains the second system of the Lyricaly section. It features three staves: Flute (top), Clarinet (middle), and Bassoon (bottom). The Flute part begins with a first-measure rest, followed by a melodic line starting at measure 3. The Clarinet and Bassoon parts also have first-measure rests and enter at measure 10. The music is in 4/4 time. The Flute part is marked *fp* (fortissimo) and includes a slur and an accent. The Clarinet part is marked *mp* (mezzo-piano) and includes a slur and an accent. The Bassoon part is marked *fp* and includes a slur and an accent.

Fl

Cl

Bsn

mf

mf

mf

Detailed description: This block contains the third system of the Lyricaly section. It features three staves: Flute (top), Clarinet (middle), and Bassoon (bottom). The Flute part begins with a first-measure rest, followed by a melodic line starting at measure 7. The Clarinet and Bassoon parts also have first-measure rests and enter at measure 20. The music is in 4/4 time and marked *mf* (mezzo-forte). The Flute part includes slurs and accents. The Clarinet part has slurs and accents. The Bassoon part has slurs and accents.

Fl 9

Cl 9

Bsn 9

Lyrally

p subito

Fl 11

Cl 11

Bsn 11

Fl 13

Cl 13

Bsn 13

Lightly

mp

cresc.

mf

18 *p* Broadly, expansively

Fl

Cl

Bsn

23 *f* *mp*

Fl

Cl

Bsn

29

Fl

Cl

Bsn

**PLEASE CONTACT AMY RUBIN
FOR SCORE AND PARTS**

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