

GABRIEL IAN GOULD
2515 HOLLAND AVENUE • HUNTINGDON, PA 16652 USA
HOME/FAX: (814)643-1279 • MOBILE: (814)251-2184
GABRIEL@GABRIELGOULD.COM • WWW.GABRIELGOULD.COM

ROOT GLEN DANCES (2005)

- I. Allemande (Tulip Tree)
- II. Courante en Rondeau (Cucumber Magnolia)
- III. Sarabande (Norway Spruce)
- IV. Ga-votte (Katsura)
- V. Gigue/Jig (Sugar Maple)

Program notes:

The Root Glen is a wooded ravine on the campus of Hamilton College in Clinton, NY. Since 1850, the college has been planting an enormous variety of trees, shrubs, and flowers, in an ongoing effort to create a unique collection of specimens, some quite rare and distinguished. I have spent many hours in the Root Glen admiring not only the landscape but also many individual trees. When I was approached with the idea of writing a woodwind quintet for the Hamilton College Department of Music, I thought that the glen in many ways represented my strongest feelings about the college and campus. Therefore I carefully chose five specific trees which would identify each of the movements of a standard dance suite, and tried to associate the type of dance with the character of the tree. The *Allemande*, a deliberate and graceful dance, is here represented by the Tuliptree, of which the Root Glen has a towering example with an impressive double trunk. The *Courante* is a lighter dance, with a fluid quality that made me think of the Cucumber Magnolia, a tree which is strong and solid but which produces whimsical “cucumber”-like seed pods – clearly a tree with a sense of humor. When choosing a tree for the *Sarabande*, traditionally a serious and somber dance, I was immediately drawn to the Root Glen’s champion Norway Spruce, which lords over its surroundings with its imposing girth and powerful branches. The *Ga-votte* is here represented by the Katsura, the smallest tree of the work (and therefore the shortest movement), which has a sense of line and proportion connecting it naturally to its Japanese ancestry. The chords used in this movement are all derived from the traditional *aitake* played by the shō in *gagaku* (imperial Japanese court music), hence the hyphenated movement title. Finally, the concluding *Gigue* (which twice makes reference to its Celtic folk-music cousin, the *Jig*) is associated with an American favorite, the Sugar Maple, which is a noble and elegant tree, but is also renowned for its striking fall colors and sweet syrup. Each movement in *Root Glen Dances* features an individual instrument from the quintet in an effort to give each performer a chance to blossom (pun most definitely intended!). *Root Glen Dances* was premiered in April 2006 at Hamilton College by Mary Beth Day, flute, Adele Paquin, oboe, Paul Bleiberg, clarinet, Yiyang Cao, horn, and Andrew Fulton, bassoon.

Performance notes:

Root Glen Dances was commissioned by the Hamilton College Department of Music for an April 2006 student performance. Although the ideal performance would be with a standard woodwind quintet (flute, oboe, B-flat clarinet, horn, and bassoon), *Root Glen Dances* is written to allow for substitutions, especially in the case of the oboe, horn, and bassoon, which are somewhat rarer instruments at small colleges. For obvious reasons, woodwind substitutions are best, though I would not rule out other possibilities if circumstances required (in an emergency, any part could be covered by piano). Generally speaking, any instrument that is able to cover the majority of notes in a part without more than occasional octave transposition is suitable for substitution:

GABRIEL IAN GOULD

2515 HOLLAND AVENUE • HUNTINGDON, PA 16652 USA
HOME/FAX: (814)643-1279 • MOBILE: (814)251-2184
GABRIEL@GABRIELGOULD.COM • WWW.GABRIELGOULD.COM

Instrument

Oboe
Horn in F
Bassoon

Substitutions

Flute, Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Trumpet, Violin, etc.
Clarinet, Trumpet, Bassoon, Bass Clarinet, Viola, Cello, etc.
Bass Clarinet, Horn, Trombone, Cello, etc.

The parts are available in multiple keys (C, B \flat , E \flat , F) to allow for all potential substitutions.

Instrumentation: Woodwind Quintet (Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Horn, and Bassoon)

Duration: 10 minutes

Premiere: April 2006, student woodwind quintet, Hamilton College, Clinton, NY