ENCOUNTER

For CLARINET QUINTET by Julia Usher

For THEA KING AND THE GEORGIAN QUARTET

this Piece was written in 1974, and was the winner of the Stroud International Composers' Competition. the first performance was given in the Stroud Festival, by Thea King and the Georgian Quartet.

it was subsequently braodcast on Radio 3 by them; and then by Angela Malsbury and the Coull Quartet.

Programme Note

Five characters meet together to make music, but one of them is different, an outsider.

In the first movement, "Greeting", the clarinet summons the protagonists with a muezzin-like call. As they as yet have no relationship, the players introduce themselves in a free metre.

They then engage in a tense 'Circualr Argument'.

After discussing the material in a strict and irritable way, they discover they have returned to the starting point.

In the final movement, "Escape", the characters explore the tension between freedom, in cadenza-like sections, and a responsive framework in which they can relate to and support one another.



1 GREETING











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