

Sextet (1998)

For oboe, clarinet, violin, viola, double bass and piano

*Premiered on January 4, 1998 at the Théâtre des Champs Elysées by the musicians of the Festival de l'Empéri.
Dedicated to Eric Le Sage.*

I. Dynamic II. Nocturne III. Festive

Written for a New Year's concert with my friends Eric Le Sage and Paul Meyer in mind, this Sextet is pervaded by the spirit of clean entertainment and good humour. The first movement, « Dynamic », is a series of variations that ring changes on the rhythmic procedures inherited from American minimalist music. The central « Nocturne » is a gently sorrowful, intimate confession sung by the clarinet above a harmonic underlay in the strings and piano. Eventually the movement « Festive » sets free the feverish joy surrounding motifs among which may be found a nod toward Schubert's celebrated trout. The score closes with a cadential sneer.

Guillaume Connesson