MARK GUSTAVSON Chiftetelli

Notes

Chiftetelli for clarinet, two violins, viola and 'cello features melodic clarinet lines whose embellishments are influenced by the Middle Eastern zummara's (the clarinet's ancient ancestor) ornamented style of playing.

The pizzicato 'cello parts were inspired by the *dombek*, a traditional Middle Eastern drum. The *dombek* produces two



basic sounds: a low resonant thump and a higher, brighter sound when the edge of the drum head is sharply rapped with the fingers. Together the lyrical clarinet lines and colorful string writing creates what Ted Shen of the Chicago Tribune described at the premeire as,

zummara

"an adroitly constructed compendium of tantalizing rhythmic variations."

Chiftetelli was composed in 1993 and recorded by the following members of Contempo who also presented the premiere performance:

Edward Gilmore, clarinet Sharon Polifrone & Theresa Fream, violins Keith Conant, viola Kim Scholes, violoncello

Contempo (the University of Chicago Contemporary Chamber Players) is dedicated exclusively to the performance of contemporary classical music, is

one of the oldest and most successful professional new music groups in the nation. Over its 40-year history, it has earned an enviable reputation for its outstanding performances of music by living composers and over eighty world premieres.

Contempo was founded in the fall of 1964 by renowned composer and conductor Ralph Shapey.

Recorded at The Chicago Recording Company April 3, 1995 Engineers: John Ray Castellanos, David Merrill Cover Photo: @istockphoto/Vladimir Piskunov Art Direction: Pamela Gurman, Fat Cat Graphics Producer: Mark Gustavson

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