

*Gnomics* consists of three movements for flute, oboe, and clarinet. Gnomonic verse, on the other hand, consists of poetry containing maxims or aphorisms which is associated with a school of Greek poets in the 6th century B.C. Although no expert in this literature, I thought the word seemed to fit the music I had written. I am afraid they are somewhat whimsical pieces, the first two especially. They lack individual titles; but the first could be thought of as a prelude, the second a scherzo, and the third--the most extended--as a wordless madrigal, in which passages of homophony and polyphony alternate. With the exception of solos for the flute near the end of the first piece and at the start of the third, the texture remains fairly consistent in its three voices as I am particularly taken with the blended sound of flute, oboe, and clarinet. *Gnomics* was composed in 1981 at the request of Meyer Kupferman.

--RW