

More About CONCERTINO FOR TUBA AND BAND

During my decade-long project of composing a series of closely-related sonatinas for all of the principal band/orchestral wind instruments and piano, I usually worked with a technical consultant to make sure what I wrote was idiomatic and within my target difficulty range, which was usually grade 4.

As I wrote the one for tuba, I worked (via e-mail) with Keith Jordan, an old friend and colleague from Albuquerque, whose principal instrument is tuba. As soon as I finished it, Keith told me that he thought it would be fun to play with a local community band, and asked if I would be interested in transcribing the piano part for concert band. I hadn't written anything for band in several years, so the suggestion sounded like a good idea to me too.

After checking with the director of the band that would be playing it to confirm that he was committed to a performance of the piece the following spring, and getting him to agree to look over the score when it was finished to be sure it fit his band, I agreed to the project and spent the next three weeks working on the transcription.

Keith eventually performed the piece twice with two different bands, and I used each performance as an excuse for a trip to Albuquerque, which I still consider a second home.

To reflect the much larger instrumentation, I changed the name from **Sonatina** (which means "little sonata") to **Concertino** (which means "little concerto"). But otherwise it is the same composition.