

More About EXPANSIONS FOR WINDS AND PERCUSSION

This was my very first commission for an original band composition, from the Westlake High School Wind Ensemble in Austin, Texas in 1974. They were to be one of the featured bands at the 1975 Texas Music Educators Association All-State Convention, and the director wanted to premiere a new contemporary-style composition that would feature their percussion section. That January 1975 TMEA performance is the one recorded on the website audio track.

The piece received quite a bit of attention, and was played by several other bands in the area over the next couple of years. It has lain dormant ever since, but I revived it when I established Dacker Music.

Expansions requires fairly complete instrumentation, as well as six versatile percussionists moving around a variety of instruments. The title refers to the form of the piece, which, using tone clusters and mild aleatoric effects, develops (expands) two short motifs, starting quietly and gradually building to a frenzied conclusion.

Three years later, I wrote a similar composition for orchestra and gave it a similar title. But unlike some others of my compositions that share a designation, **Expansions for Winds and Percussion** and **Expansions for Orchestra** are separate and unique from each other. All they share is a style and form, while **Serenata for Strings** and **Serenata for Chamber Orchestra**, and **Voices of the Night: a Nocturnal Fantasy for Orchestra** and the same title for band, are different versions of the very same music.