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Vol. 69	SPRING 2022	Iss. 3
<i>Letter from the Editor</i> by Andrew J. Allen		4
<i>Reviews</i>		5

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Three Compositions, Op. 40**Amy Beach/trans. David Cook****Alea Publishing****\$20****Reviewed by: Lori Ardovino**

Amy Beach's *Three Compositions*, op. 40 were composed originally for violin and piano in 1898 with a version for cello and piano published in 1903. David Cook has arranged the *Three Compositions* for B-flat and A clarinet or bass clarinet and piano. David Cook is Assistant Professor of Clarinet and chair of instrumental performance studies at Millikin University, Principal Clarinet of the Millikin-Decatur Orchestra and clarinetist for the Appian Duo and the Greyline Duo. Dr. Cook holds Bachelor of Music and Bachelor of Music Education degrees from Central Michigan University, Master of Music degrees in clarinet performance and chamber music from the University of Michigan, and the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in clarinet performance and the Master of Music degree in music theory from the University of Oklahoma.

La Captive is lyrical and expressive. The tempo indicated is *Largo con molto espressione*, allowing this pleasing melody to be executed in the most sensitive manner utilizing the low to middle range of the clarinet. The range for the B-flat clarinet is mid to low, not extending past E4, however, the bass clarinet exploits the upper register to D5 in order to mirror the register that the cello would have played in. *Berceuse*, for clarinet in A, also employs the lower to mid-range of the clarinet, at one point the clarinet moves to D5 above the staff. Again, this piece is very lyrical, with a tempo just slightly faster than *La Captiva*. The *Mazurka*, for clarinet in A, is livelier and more technical than the previous two pieces. This piece's range is more extended (up to F5), and requires more agility from the performer. It is the most technically demanding of the three.

Three Compositions, Op. 40 is a welcome addition to the clarinet and bass clarinet repertoire. The first two pieces (*La Captiva* and *Berceuse*) could be performed by an advanced high school student, grade level 3. *Mazurka* is more demanding but could be included with the mix. It would have been nice to have a B-flat version for *Berceuse* and *Mazurka*, to allow more high school clarinetists to perform these two pieces. Regardless, this is a beautiful set, skillfully arranged by Dr. Cook. I would program this work on a recital as I'm sure many other professional clarinetists would.

About the Reviewer

Lori Ardovino has been a guest recitalist at a number of colleges and universities and international and national festivals including the International Clarinetfest, The International Alliance for Women in Music Congress, NACWPI, NACUSA, Southeastern Composers League, the North American Saxophone Alliance Conference, the College Music Society and the Alabama Music Educators. Dr. Ardovino received the 2013-14 Alabama State Council for the Arts Artist Fellowship was chosen the University of Montevallo University Scholar for 2013. She is an active composer and has had her works performed across the United States, Japan, Italy and Canada. Her CD's include, *From A Crack In The Wall*-clarinet music by Alabama Composers, *Between Walls*-saxophone music by Alabama Composers, *The LeBaron Trio*-works for clarinet, piano and voice, and *Saxophone Music by Living Women Composers*. She is a graduate of Minnesota State University-Moorhead (BM, BA), Michigan State University (MM) and the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music (DMA).

She is an Artist/Clinician with Conn-Selmer Company, D'Addario Woodwinds and is a

Fulbright Specialist. Currently, she is Professor Music at the University of Montevallo where she teaches clarinet, saxophone and woodwind methods and ensembles. She performs with the LeBaron Trio, the Meallo Trio, the Vinna Trio and the Cahaba Saxophone Quartet.

