

An Archive of the musical compositions by Herb Bielawa

Composition:

**Abstractions** – string orchestra

1. *Orbs*
2. *Vellications*

Date: 1966

Duration: 12:00

Recording: Villa Sinfonia Chamber Orchestra, Roy Oakley, conductor

Program Note:

Written for the Houston Spring Branch High School orchestra during my tenure as composer-in-residence from 1964 to 1966, *Abstractions* is a twelve-tone serial composition. *Orbs* is in loose ABA form. *Vellications* is through-composed and is unified by opening motives. A periodic return of an exclamatory hammer-stroke motive throughout the piece also serves to unify it. One would hardly suspect *Abstractions* to be atonal, but both movements use the same twelve-tone series.