

An Archive of the musical compositions by Herb Bielawa

Composition:

**Blurts** – flute, clarinet, piano

1. *Piano Polemic*
2. *Wild Winds*
3. *Ensemble Encyclical*

Date: 1997

Duration: 11:29

Recording: by Lenora Warkentin, flute; Richard Mathias, clarinet; Herb Bielawa, piano

Program Note:

*Blurts*, first of all, got its title from the fact that it turned out featuring sharp musical jabs. My compositional strategy was to join tonality with atonality in the same space. To do this in the first movement I gave the winds music that is starkly tonal (in F major) and the piano atonal music. In the second movement the winds have atonal music and the piano has stark Ab minor music. The effect hoped for is one wherein the music will have a subliminal sense of key even as it is freely tonal at the same time. Giving the instruments spectral space in which to move (no overlapping or cross-voicing) also contributes to the general euphony of the work. *Blurts* was written for the premiere appearance of Sounds New, a new music ensemble created in Kensington, California.