

An Archive of the musical compositions by Herb Bielawa

Composition: **Five Pipe Organ Adventures**

Walls of Sound 3:20

Magic Lantern (Not recorded)

Pulsar 1:59

Mobile 4:02

Swing 1:56

Date: 1993

Duration: 11:20

Recording: by Sandra Soderlund

Program Note:

This set of relatively short organ pieces was written for specific groups of musicians: those who have recently become interested in the pipe organ, those who have yet to discover it, and those who are intrigued by the pieces themselves. To perform *Adventures* it is assumed that a person is already a capable keyboardist. Organ pedal technique is a special technique requiring careful nurturing, something an otherwise fine keyboardist would find difficult or even daunting at first. The organ, of course, can also be played without using the pedals. This work was composed, however, with the idea that pedals can be used by a pianist if the pedal parts are fairly basic and undemanding. It is assumed that keyboardists will, indeed, be able to perform these pieces with a minimum of difficulty. The number of pedal notes in *Adventures* is limited, changing foot position occurs when manual activity is minimal, and occasionally no pedal is required at all. Any good adventure has a touch of risk. The assumptions are that these pieces are maverick in their approach, style, and tradition. They are, in fact, a bit jarring when one thinks of traditional church organ music. A good adventure is also one that has a considerable measure of fun.