

# Bagatelles

I. Intrada II. In Shadows III. Surfer Boys  
IV. Canon 1 V. Improviso VI. Game of Catch (Canon 2)  
VII. Relay

Composed by  
**Brian Kershner**  
(2008)

**Bagatelles for Clarinet and Bassoon (2008)      Duration: 9:15**

By definition, a bagatelle is a “trifle”, a short character piece in a light style. That describes well this set of seven duos for one of my favorite instrumental combinations. The principal clarinet and principal bassoon often develop a close bond in the orchestra, due to the fact that they sit next to each other, but also because they share certain instrumental eccentricities and tendencies. For one, the registers blend exceedingly well. For another, they, often in partnership with the horns, wage a usually polite and quiet war of pitch control with the front row of winds, the flute and oboe, as well as with the strings. This rear phalanx of winds must hold the pitch center down where it should be, lest a higher and higher level of pitch take us into uncomfortable, unsustainable and non-resonant musical real estate. In addition the middle tenor register of the bassoon and higher register of the clarinet are both inherently flat. In any case, we have this bond, and perhaps that is why so many of my best friends over these several decades in the music business have been clarinetists.

These Bagatelles were first prompted by two competitions which were asking for pieces of one minute in length. I wrote a couple of these, which eventually became movements V. Improviso and VII. Relay.

The pieces try to capture contrasting moods and exploit both the differences and the areas of agreement between these two instruments. Sometimes, the bassoon provides a solid foundation for nearly improvisatory, soaring lines in the clarinet, and other times the two engage in contrapuntal interplay, including two canons.

--Brian Kershner (2008)

# Bagatelles

For Clarinet and Bassoon

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## I. Intrada

Moderately fast, sturdy tempo ♩=112

The score is written for Clarinet in Bb and Bassoon. It consists of five systems of music, each with a Clarinet and Bassoon part. The key signature is one flat (Bb), and the time signature is 4/4. The tempo is moderately fast, sturdy tempo, with a quarter note equal to 112 beats per minute. The score includes various dynamics such as *mf*, *f*, *p*, *mp*, *ff*, and *poco f*. There are also performance instructions like *sost. e cresc.* and *piu f*. The score is numbered 1 through 17.

Clarinet in Bb: *mf*, *f*

Bassoon: *mf*, *poco f*

Cl.: *piu f*, *ff*

Bsn.: *f*, *ff*

Cl.: *mp*, *mf*

Bsn.: *p*, *mf*

Cl.: *f*, *sost. e cresc.*

Bsn.: *f*

Cl.: *mp*, *mf*

Bsn.: *mf*, *sost. e cresc.*

Cl. *f* *mf*

Bsn. *f* *mf*

18 19 20

Cl. *ff* *pp* subito *ff* *pp* subito *ff* sempre

Bsn. *ff* *pp* subito *ff* *pp* subito *ff* sempre

21 22 23 24 25

Cl. *mf*

Bsn. *mf*

26 27 28

Cl. *f* *f* piu

Bsn. *f* *f* poco

29 30 31 32

Cl. *f*

Bsn. *f*

33 34

Cl. *ff* *sfp* *ff*

Bsn. *ff* *sfp* *ff*

35 36 37 38