

Rain Palace (1993) for solo oboe, solo cor anglais and orchestra

commissioned by the National Endowment for the Arts

FP: 13 February 1993, Haddonfield NJ
Haddonfield Symphony / Alan Gilbert, conductor
dedicated to Alan Gilbert

Rain Palace is scored for an orchestra featuring an obbligato duo of oboe and cor anglais. The first version received its world premiere under the baton of Alan Gilbert and the Haddonfield Symphony on 13 February 1993; the definitive version was premiered on 1 October 1994 by the National Symphony Orchestra, directed by James Paul, at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC.

Like much of my music, the harmonic world is dense, if this time relatively relaxed in pace. In **Rain Palace**, there is a somewhat more obvious degree of theatricality insofar as the two soloists can be interpreted as having roles akin to characters moving through a sonic landscape, perhaps like a wordless opera, or an imaginary film. This pair appears and reappears in a succession of gradually metamorphosing lyrical scenes and the listener is encouraged to invent their own narrative thread.