

Herman Beeftink – Spring, for Flute and Piano

## “Spring” Program Notes

Herman Beeftink is a Dutch-American composer, born in the Netherlands in 1953 and now living in Los Angeles. Spring was composed in 2019 and is dedicated to his daughter, Fay Aiyana. Inspired by nature, Beeftink’s Seasons is four movements that connect as one, but they function equally well as individual standalone compositions. Each season begins and ends with a unique harmonic "signature". Reflecting the seasons' coming and going, Spring, Summer, Autumn, and Winter feature an interplay between flute and piano building to a climax, followed by a gradual descent.

Spring begins with slow, open-voiced piano chords as we come out of a stark winter landscape. The flute awakens with a sense of wonder, welcoming spring with a tender melody. As the piano picks up the rhythm, we feel that spring has arrived. With flowers blossoming, we pass through a jubilant climax to a renewal of the slow, opening chords. These chords have now taken on a new meaning: the golden light of a spring afternoon.