

ROBERT SIROTA

COMPOSER

PROGRAM NOTES

FOUR PIECES FOR ORGAN (1975)

Program note by Robert Sirota:

Four Pieces for Organ was commissioned by organ builder George Bozeman for the Bozeman-Gibson Organ installed in St. Paul's Lutheran Church, East Northport, New York. George asked me to compose this work before he even realized that the pastor of that church (Rev. Henry Ressmeyer) was my father-in-law! The work was originally written to show off the tonal possibilities of this small, elegant instrument. The opening Allegretto features a rhythmic counterpoint in which the second voice always seems to come in late. Alternation of reed sounds in the second piece, coupled with jaunty syncopated rhythms, create the effect of a ragtime for organ. The third piece contrasts the softest eight-foot stops from two manuals, unwinding a slow melody that offers subtle changes in nuance and color by shifting the line from one manual to the other. The last piece is a "negative" toccata: whereas a normal toccata swells to a crashing climax, this one simply disintegrates.