# TWITTER ETUDES No. 2

for

Solo Oboe

by

John Burge

#### About the composition...

Twitter Etudes No. 2, for solo oboe, was commissioned in 2016 by Charles (Chip) Hamann, Principal Oboe of the National Arts Centre Orchestra (Ottawa, Ontario) as well as being an accomplished chamber musician and teacher. In the summer of that year Chip had been recording John Burge's Sonata Breve No. 4, for oboe and piano, and in passing John had mentioned that he had just finished composing Twitter Etudes No. 1, for solo violin. This violin work was composed as the test piece for the First Bader-Overton Violin Competition taking place in 2017. When John spoke of the fun working within the constraints of creating a challenging etude with just 140 distinctive attacks, Chip immediately expressed interest in having a set for the oboe. Having long been an admirer of Chip's facility and musicianship, this commission opportunity was immediately inspiring and the score was delivered shortly thereafter.

Each of the six short etudes in this set is given a title that in some cases reflects the technical skill demanded of the performer including: "Repeated Notes", "Stationary Control" and "Disjunct Motion". Other individual titles such as, "Double Reed Blues" and "A Flourish" are more descriptive in the way they reflect the desired character or effect. The most distinctive etude and the composer's personal favourite is "Why I Love the Oboe". Many composers have repeatedly given their most beautiful romantic melodies to this instrument and this etude leans heavily on the oboe's lyrical side in presenting a short, four-phrase melody followed by two more florid variations. The entire set takes approximately five minutes to play and although the composer has given numbers to each etude, performers are encouraged to play them in any order or to even perform just a few at a time.

#### About the composer...

Canadian composer John Burge (b. 1961) has been a professor of Composition and Theory at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario since 1987. In recognition of his work as a composer, he received one of the University's 2013 Awards for Excellence in Research and in 2014 he was inducted as a Fellow in the Royal Society of Canada's Humanities and Arts Division for both his work as a composer and his leadership in the arts in Canada. John Burge has written a large body of vocal, chamber, and orchestral compositions and a chamber opera entitled, *The Auction*. He has always been drawn to writing for string instruments and his string orchestra work, *Flanders Fields Reflections*, as recorded by Sinfonia Toronto, won the 2009 Juno for Best Recording of a Canadian Classical Composition. A passionate advocate of Canadian music, he was a member of the executive council of the Canadian League of Composers for fourteen years, holding the position of President from 1998-2006. He has been serving on the Board of Directors for the SOCAN Foundation since 2009.

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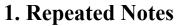
John Burge

- 1. Repeated Notes
- 2. Stationary Control
- 3. Double Reed Blues
- 4. A Flourish
- 5. Why I Love the Oboe
- 6. Disjunct Motion

Performers are encouraged to play these etudes in any order or even just a few at a time.

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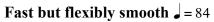


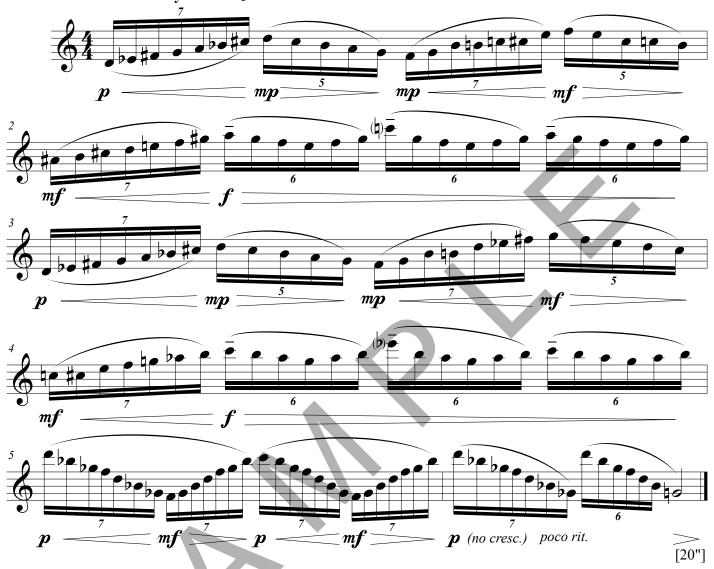


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### 4. A Flourish





### 5. Why I Love the Oboe





