

Duo Concertante was written for Frederick L. Hemke and Frederic J.B. Hemke. The father and son duo premiered the work in the spring of 2003 with the Wroclaw Philharmonic Orchestra, under the baton of Mariusz Smolij. The piece is scored for two solo alto saxophones and a small orchestra, and there are additional versions with wind ensemble or piano. The **Duo** is a one-movement work that pits a soaring lyrical theme performed by one soloist against a driving rhythmic theme played by the other. The two soloists are then matched against the orchestra. As the music progresses, elements of one theme can be heard to invade the other: the fun is in listening to see which idea (if any!) ultimately emerges as the “winner.” The listener will note a limited number of “special effects” are employed in the saxophone parts, most notably tone color changes and quarter-tones (those beautiful, “between the notes” pitches). The abstract nature of the title reflects some of the ideas I was thinking about during composition of the piece, especially with respect to the rather classically oriented structure of the piece. The high-octane energy and over the top expressivity should, however, strike the listener as altogether contemporary.