

Déliements (literally loosening or unraveling)

The limitations of the means, the expansion of the tonal spectrum and the relationship of the flute to the organ (both are « wind » instruments) were the determining factors in my work. The organ represents the propelling force, the flute represents the changing component. There is no development, because this piece is in « open form » : planes of sounds are made with long, sustained tones which imperceptible change and interweave and are interrupted sporadically by short, nervous attacks.

Déliements represents one of the most thorough explorations of flute technique in recent literature. The mouthpiece, footpiece and center joint are each played separately and in combination. The right hand is used at the end-hole to extend the range and to provide glissandi and tremulants. Moreover, a variety of embouchure techniques is used, including one borrowed from brass instruments, for example trumpet.

Berkeley, February 1979