

Observations on Modern Techniques of Philip Sparke

Philip Sparke, an English composer hailing from London born in 1951, uses innovative harmonic and melodic content within his works. In Sparke's *Dance Movements*, Movement II, "Molto Vivo (for the Woodwinds)", Sparke provides a simple large ternary form, but includes innovative modern harmony and melody. Within this work, I will be delving into how Sparke uses a large ternary form, specifically the elements that create this form, and explain the significance as they relate to modern works. While delving into harmony, I will observe the many key areas of the A section, and explore the dense chord structure of the B section. Melodically, this work is quite straightforward, although some exceptions arise with looking at the long oboe lines in the B section of the movement. The ever-changing time signatures will also be discussed, as they too serve a purpose in describing Sparke's work as modern. Sparke's *Dance Movements* provide listeners with many opportunities to explore a contemporary composition that leaves an audience with great satisfaction.