# **RAYMOND YIU**

### THE HOURS

for Flute, Clarinet and Piano (1999-2001)

Qredient ille

There's just this for consolation: an hour here or there when our lives seem, against all odds and expectations, to burst open and give us everything we've ever imagined, though everyone but children (and perhaps even they) knows these hours will inevitably be followed by others, far darker and more difficult. Still, we cherish the city, the morning; we hope, more than anything, for more.

The Hours - Michael Cunningham



Duration: 17'00"

#### **Instrumentation:**

Flute (doubling piccolo and alto flute) Clarinet in Bb (doubling bass clarinet) Piano

Score in C.

#### **Performance Notes:**

Although *The Hours* is constructed in seven parts, there are in fact only six pieces – Part III and Part VI are the two halves of the same piece. The work can be played in a sequence different from the printed one – even though it is how the work was conceived and preferred by the composer.

When the work is performed in the printed order, it is essential to maintain the tempi of Part III and Part VI, so that the beginning of Part VI should sound like an immediate continuation of Part III. The transition between Part III and Part IV should be as smooth as possible. It is also preferable to keep the breaks between Part II/Part III and Part IV/Part V slightly longer.

When the work is to be played in a different order, ignore *attacca* at the end of Part III if it is not to be followed by Part Wor Part VI.

### **Acknowledgement:**

Without Michael Cunningham's novel of the same name, *The Hours* would not take its present form, or even materialise. Therefore I would like to express my sincere appreciation for his inspiration. I am also very grateful for his kind permission for allowing an extract from his novel to be included in the preface of this score.

R.Y.

The Hours was first performed on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2003 by Trio Kessner (Daniel Kessner (flute), Gareth Davis (clarinet) and Dolly Eugenio Kessner (piano)) at Sala dei Giganti al Liviano, Padua, Italy.

## THE HOURS













