

## **Tempête de sable (2003) for clarinet, violin and viola**

*Tempête de sable (Storm of Sand)* was commissioned by violist Aurélie Entringer and clarinetist Zefir Brezeanu and written during the weeks before the initial bombing of Baghdad, Iraq in 2003. I began writing *Tempête de sable* in an attempt to encompass the overwhelming sorrow, frustration and helplessness I felt knowing how many lives were about to change so catastrophically as a result of the United States' attacks on Baghdad. The piece begins with the viola's theme—first accompanied by a *sul ponticello tremolo* played by the violin, summoning the sound, imagery and physicality of sand blowing in the wind, biting the skin. This theme is then passed back and forth with the clarinet. The melodies in this work represent the lament of a woman mourning the death of a small child. In a small way, music can be the expression of personal feelings through which a listener or performer can find their own personal experiences and meaning resonating with their own lives. It is my desire that you can hear this work with your own personal imagery attached.

©2003 Alexandra du Bois