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*The Baylor Woodwind Connection: Contemporary Quintets by American Composers* (Compact Disc Recording)  
(Instrumental Studies / Music)

The literature for the woodwind quintet has long been eclipsed by that of the string quartet and piano trio. Even today, string quartets receive the lion’s share of funding for residencies and appearances on concert series, while wind groups of equal caliber often struggle to survive.

Historically, the winds came to the mechanical “perfection” far too late to be perceived as a medium worthy of the attention of a Beethoven, Brahms, Tchaikovsky or Dvorak. The heart of quintet repertoire lies in the 20th and 21st centuries with only a few fine examples form the 18th or 19th centuries. However the quantity of these earlier, more accessible works is dwarfed by the voluminous literature of these periods in the string repertoire. The responsibility for fostering the growth of quality chamber works for winds has fallen largely on the academy and its wind faculty.

This project focuses on adding five works to the body of recorded works for woodwind quintet. These works have been commissioned by, dedicated to, or written for the Baylor University Woodwind Quintet. Recordings have become the primary means of disseminating new works to the international community and thus of paramount importance in our area, much the same as a paper presented on a new medication would be in medicine. While these works have received moderate attention, they cannot be fully appreciated until heard. As fewer and fewer American orchestras struggle to remain solvent, the smaller and more flexible resources of chamber music groups will play a vital role broadening the cultural experience of our students. The key to the success of this endeavor lies in a broad and diverse repertoire.