

FANTASY ON A TALE

For wind quintet

PROGRAMME NOTES

Fantasy on a Tale was written in response to a commission from American bassoonist Hugh Rosenbaum. Cast in a single movement, the quintet loosely incorporates two tales based on Eastern European illustrations: the first was a cartoon of a boy looking at a beautiful spider in its web whom he asks for thread to mend his trousers; the musical reinterpretation transforms the spider into a girl and the web into the unseen threads of affection and bonding.

The second illustration was a lacquer box painted with Russian legends and fairy tales by the contemporary artist Palekh. The musical setting depicts dark, still forests covered in snow and the arrival of three fiery steeds. Woven into the Fantasy is the story teller, a jolly, chubby grandmother figure represented by a theme on the horn and a folk-like theme for the children who are her audience. The fantasy ends by taking flight on the fiery horses into the starry night.