Music in Five Parts: program note

Music in Five Parts is so named because the piece consists of five sections of music, identical to each other in structure, material and timing. In effect, it's a series of five variations without a theme. Over the course of this compact eight-minute work, each of the three instruments is given soloistic opportunities although in general, "Music in Five Parts" maintains a consistent equality among the flute, viola and harp. This piece began its life as a work for unaccompanied viola under the title "départs" (2009); after many performances of the work by a number of violists in its original version, I decided to amplify and fill out the textures with the other two instruments in order to gain greater contrast and variety. The present version was completed in Beijing in May, 2013.

Joel Hoffman (2014)