

***Riffs for Solo Flute*** (1974)

First performance: 7 December 1974, Toronto

Riffs for solo flute reflects the characteristics of the "many moods of jazz blues" - the improvised manner within a twelve-bar melodic form, the slow, sad, melancholy feeling interrupted with highly-charged "shouts" and a dialogue of call-and-response patterns coloured by bent pitch inflections. The work is composed in twelve segments of various durations related only by the Blues style and a recurring long-tone cadence on a low G. The title Riffs is the jazz-man's slang for repeated jazz figures that are a feature of the work. Riffs was commissioned by New Music Concerts under a grant from the Ontario Arts Council. It was written in 1974 and premiered by Robert Aitken on December 7, 1974 in the Edward Johnson Building at the University of Toronto.

Appears on Canadian Music Centre website.