# WE NEED TO TALK

### FOR CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

Dianne Hartman

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## Instrumentation

Flute Oboe Clarinet Bassoon

Horn in F 1,2 Trumpet Trombone

Marimba

Violin 1,2
Viola
Violoncello
Double Bass

duration: ca. 4:30 Transposed Score

#### PROGRAM NOTES

### We Need To Talk by Dianne Hartman

The title is a sentence that brings about quite a variety of reactions. When relationships between spouses, best friends, or partners, have been long term, sometimes things begin to change. It may become unexciting, lacking the energy it once had. Then one or both become irritable about some things that never bothered them before, or those "things" did bother them in the past but were ignored as not worth mentioning. Soon the irritability becomes angrier and accelerates into biting remarks or insults. At some point, one person decides it's time to say, "We need to talk." There may be resistance at first, then gradually the talking begins but it is awkward since neither realizes what is going on.

The orchestra members are going to experience this phase in their orchestral relationships, musically. They begin playing pleasantly but without much energy. A sorrowful melody begins in the brass section as the horns lament about something feeling out of sync with the group, their way of saying, "We need to talk." When no response occurs and others remain passive, they become irritable and then angry. Volume begins to increase, and the rhythm suddenly changes. Other orchestra sections then begin following suit expressing complaints. Soon disagreements are being openly brought up and energy has been returned. Volume increases and then decreases with the sound of a long sigh of melodic relief. This is followed by a lively dance because of the improvement in the relationships. Even though the dance has its moments of falling back into old habits at times, everyone agrees to be vigilant and to get back on track to open communication again. A decision is made to remember that conflict cannot be avoided in life, but it can be faced with discussion and appropriate expression of feelings, as is done by the orchestra, ending the piece with joy.

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