Program Note:

Suggested program listing:

I. Allegro
II. Supplication
III. Joyful

Sonata for Clarinet and Piano (2015) is intended as intimate chamber music: a duet for equal partners that explores a range of emotional worlds. The first movement contrasts a spacious and lyrical theme, played first by the clarinet, against a jazzy theme, played first by the piano. After a development section the first theme returns, reimagined as piano harmonics. The second movement, entitled "Supplication," forms the emotional center of the sonata. It opens with a paraphrase of "Ohavei Adonai..." (Psalm 97), as transcribed in *Sefer Hadrakhah* by Charles Davidson. After the opening, which is like a call to prayer, the melody reappears three times, transmuted into different moods. It becomes hopeful; then angry; and finally, after a brief interlude hinting at a peaceful world just out of reach, it concludes the movement in a state of despondency. The final movement is a brisk and joyous rondo with variations, mostly in 5/4 time.

I am grateful to Charles Davidson for his kind permission to use his transcription of "Ohavei Adonai." I also acknowledge Swarthmore College for the support of its faculty sabbatical program.

Duration: Approximately 18 minutes