

for mixed septet

### **Thomas J. Dempster**

for Jacob Reed

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instrumentation

flute clarinet in Bb bassoon horn in F trumpet in C viola violoncello

#### program note

It started as one line, much like everything else. Toeing the line, crossing the line, stopping at the line, jumping over the line, erasing the line.

Brief concord from time to time isn't just unnerving: it's necessary. Get rid of fine lines, stop walking a line, to hell with thin green or red or blue lines. Phone lines, cable lines, laugh lines, esophageal lining. Vinyl liners in a pool in June several thousand miles north of the equator, even.

They're pitted all against one another from time to time, you know. Each has his or her own lines they have to play and recite and yell and whisper to each other onstage. No one really crosses the line, no one really has to, since the winds have blown the coarser grains underneath the finer grains in the sand. It's rather nebulous where it starts and ends or where beginnings are endings, you know.

I crossed my lines only recently and I refuse to look back. Sure, it's just OK if you are perplexed at all of this. Just follow the lines for a while – you'll get back to somewhere warm and safe.

As for me, I have no time for this anymore. Destiny awaits... and... and...

Errm... Huh.

\*cough\*

Line, please?



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60 mf

Vc.

























































































