PREFACE

BLOCKFLUTE ADVENTURE is a high-energy romp suggestive of a rafting trip or similar exploit where there is no turning back once engaged. Stitched together is a series of related vignettes arising from a single rhythmic motive (the "Adventure Rhythm" or AR), in various disguises and affectations. From the apprehensive opening, through round-robin solo trade-offs, and surprising twists and turns heading into the recapitulation and finish, the AR is the main binding agent — like the river carrying the raft, with its capricious personalities of slow-flowing calm and exciting rapids.

PERFORMANCE NOTES Each player gets a turn as soloist at some point in the music, and each solo has its technical peculiarities. The opening Soprano solo requires a mastery of circular breathing to indefinitely suspend the endless plaintive note, as well as smooth, leaky fingers to get the half-step glissando slides. Besides the breathing requirements and glissandi, the only other "extended technique" called for in the piece is sputato articulation, denoted by a short vertical stroke above the note ( ). When coupled with the staccato dot, the resulting resemblance to an exclamation point (!) is purely coincidental.

For ease of reading, syncopated 16th-notes have had their beams extended over the preceding rests, to visually show their relationship to the quarter-note beat (and).

PARTS Each part consists of two double-sided pages. Begin with pages 1 and 2 side by side. A long rest on page 2 provides time to flip page 1 over to reveal page 3; similarly, a rest on page 3 allows time to flip over page 2 to show page 4. In this way, only two pages need be on the music stand.

GLEN SHANNON is an American composer and recorder player living near San Francisco, California. His love of straightforward, approachable music for the recorder has garnered him several prizes in composition contests since 1997. He publishes his music under his own name at www.glenshannonmusic.com, and has also had works published by Moeck Verlag, PRB Productions, and the American Recorder Society. Performances of some of his works, including a version of this piece, can be found on YouTube at www.youtube.com/glenshannon.

Glen is active in the ARS as editor of the semiannual Members' Library Editions, a series introducing new recorder music to the worldwide membership. He was also selected by the ARS to compose the piece to be played worldwide in March 2011 for their annual Play-the-Recorder Month celebration.

NOTE FROM THE COMPOSER I thoroughly enjoyed writing Blockflute Adventure and was extremely pleased to learn it had made it to the awards podium! It is an honor to have my music reviewed by such esteemed judges. The music is a small departure from my usual composing style, which has as its audience mid- to upper-intermediate amateur players. Writing for a professional quartet was very liberating, because it became possible to imagine all sorts of fun and complex gestures, without worry that the music would be unapproachable and set aside.

This publication was designed, produced, edited and typeset by Glen Shannon for the American Recorder Society.