# ATALANTA

# FOR FLUTE, OBOE, BASS CLARINET, HARP, & VIOLA

Commissioned by Agnes Scott College for the Merian Ensemble

## Composed by Nicole Chamberlain

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The origin of the city of Atlanta's namesake is a circuitous one, but it keeps returning to Atalanta. Atalanta was a Greek mythology character who grew up in the wilderness and famous for her skills as a hunter and speed as a runner. Another prominent figure in Atlanta history was former Governor Wilson Lumpkin whose daughter's full name was Martha Atalanta Lumplkin. In Atlanta folklore, it seems that Martha was up and running at an early age which concreted her nickname "Atlanta". Governor Lumpkin eventually got his way, and the city was officially named Atlanta.

The city of Atlanta does share some qualities with the mythological character Atalanta. Atlanta is often called the city in the forest. There are numerous parks and conservation wilderness areas within the city limits. Many Atlantans take advantage of the beautiful parks for a good run. The most popular race is the 10K Peachtree Road Race which occurs every Fourth of July which draws 60,000 runners from all over the world. Atlanta is a city teeming with trees and runners.

Atalanta for flute, oboe, clarinet, viola, and harp reflects the energy and whimsy of a vibrant city in the forest. Fun, intense, and fast paced music that exploits the athletic and virtuosic abilities of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra musicians that make up Merian Ensemble. The piece incorporates a running pace that fluctuates with Atlanta's rolling hills. A city backdrop that morphs into the wilderness as the runner enters a nature dense park, and then back again as the runner returns to her urban abode. A musical adventure to facilitate a runner's high without the sweat....well maybe not as much for the listener.

#### FLUTE EXTENDED TECHNIQUES:

**Jet whistle** - Finger the pitch indicated in the notation. Cover the embochure hole completely with the lips. Blow using an extreme force of air.

**Pizzicato** - Finger the pitch indicated by the notation. Use a hard "Do" or "Tu" articulation to produce a percussive effect similar to what you may hear strings produce when plucking strings.

ch, shh, & za - In a "beat boxing" style, use these syllables as articulation for the pitch indicated in the notation. This will not produce a full tone, but more of a breathy percussive effect.

norm. - Return to "normal" or "traditional" flute playing.



- Bend pitch down a quarter tone by playing flat or bending the pitch by rolling in headjoint over total duration.

#### **OBOE EXTENDED TECHNIQUES:**



- Bend pitch down a quarter tone by lipping down over duration of note value.

## BASS CLARINET EXTENDED TECHNIQUES:

**Slap Tongue** - Place the surface the tongue flat against the reed and finger pitch indicated. Quickly pull the tongue off the reed creating a 'slap' as the vacuum is opened.



- Bend pitch down or up (in direction of the arrow) a quarter tone by playing flat or bending the pitch by dropping the jaw over duration of note value.

## HARP EXTENDED TECHNIQUES:

**Knock** - Find the best audible and resonate spot on the sound board of the harp to knock or slap. Another option could include a foot stomp on a hardwood floor or wood box.

### VIOLA EXTENDED TECHNIQUES:

**Knock** - Find the best audible and resonate spot on the body of the viola to knock or slap. Anotherr option could include a foot stomp on a hardwood floor or wood box.

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