

# ROBERT SIROTA

COMPOSER

## PROGRAM NOTES

### *SPINDRIFT (2015)*

Program note by Robert Sirota:

As part of my year-long residency at Concerts on the Slope, I was commissioned by Sandbox Percussion to compose a new piece for percussion quartet. Sandbox Percussion is an extraordinary ensemble; besides playing with the utmost virtuosity, they bring a sensitivity and refinement to their music-making rarely found in any chamber music group, let alone a percussion group. I wanted to create something that showed off their unusual combination of skill, finesse, and musicality.

I began the process of composing by coming up with motives and gestures that were fleeting, light, and fast. With two marimbas and two vibraphones I was looking to capture the motion and fluidity of quickly flowing water. About halfway into the compositional process I came up with the title Spindrift, which is the term for windblown sea spray.

The resulting single 12-minute movement consists of three sections, fast-slow-fast, of about 4 minutes each. The writing takes advantage of the wide range of timbre achievable on these mallet instruments by varying dynamics, register, and the kind of mallets used (hard, soft, yarn, rubber, etc.). Another feature of the work is the antiphonal positioning of the four instruments in the acoustic space of the room.