



## PROGRAM NOTES

Leonard Bernstein was an American jazz composer, conductor, and pianist, who is one of the most highly regarded American musicians to date. Bernstein grew up taking piano lessons and went on to study at Harvard. This is around the time that he began his compositions, and from 1941-1942, he finished his first published piece- Sonata for Clarinet and Piano. This piece was written for his fellow colleague and clarinetist, David Oppenheim, whom he first premiered the piece with on April 21, 1942.

Upon its premiere, the piece wasn't well received. Critics thought it was written more strongly for piano rather than clarinet. Looking at the piece and where it is now in history, it is well viewed and an essential 20th-century clarinet piece. It draws in not only on the jazz capabilities of clarinet, but also the classical ones. Bernstein essentially created the love child of the two genres in such a beautiful way to make it an important piece for both clarinet and piano history. His

how to come a