The number of compositions for unaccompanied clarinet significantly increased in the twentieth century, particularly in the second half of the century. Beginning in 1919 with Stravinsky's Three Pieces for Clarinet Solo, fifteen compositions for unaccompanied clarinet were written and published in the first half of the century. From 1950 through 1959, nearly sixty works were written and published. This dramatic growth continued through the second half of the century resulting in hundreds of published compositions. The earliest published reference material on unaccompanied clarinet compositions is James Gillespie's Solos for Unaccompanied Clarinet: An Annotated Bibliography of Published Works from 1973. The only other comprehensive document on the subject is the 1992 treatise of Tara Scruggs, "An Annotated Bibliography of Original Music for Solo Clarinet Published Between 1972 and 1977." The purpose of this research is to supplement the current body of bibliographic literature.
pertaining to compositions written for unaccompanied clarinet. This treatise contains a catalog of 149 compositions published between 1978 and 1982. An annotated bibliography of forty-two compositions, selected to represent the diversity of musical content and compositional styles of the catalog, is included. This continues the work of Gillespie and Scruggs, extending it by five years. The catalog contains only original compositions written for clarinet in A or B-flat. Compositions for E-flat or bass clarinet are not included, nor are transcriptions of compositions written for other instruments. The annotated bibliographies present practical information on the compositions, including the duration, degree of difficulty, range, new or extended techniques, dedication or commission, and available recordings. Aspects of compositional style and technique are discussed, as well as specific technical and musical elements. Brief biographies on the composers are offered with listings of their other clarinet works. The treatise is organized in four sections: (1) introductory material that includes a glossary of the new and extended techniques found in the annotated compositions, (2) catalog of compositions, (3) annotated bibliographies of selected compositions, and (4) a summary chapter containing the annotated compositions grouped by difficulty level and use of extended techniques, as well as statistical data based on the research.