



# Jonathan Dove

## Tuning In

for saxophone quartet

First performance: October 1995, St John's Smith Square, Meridian Quartet

commissioned by the Meridian Quartet

This is a conversation piece: a musical portrait of a conversation. I've noticed that there's often a shape to the way a group of friends behave when they get together. First, there are the signals that bring about the meeting (a phone-call, perhaps, or a chance encounter). Once they've arrived, they celebrate a shared experience, something they have in common. In the next stage of 'tuning in', different ideas are batted around for a while: the group hasn't yet settled on the thing it *really* wants to talk about. Gradually the conversation settles around one subject, perhaps becoming heated. And then, often at the last moment, the most important thing, the deepest thing, gets said; sometimes this brings the moment of greatest harmony. Finally, with a little sadness that this communion is at an end, the group disperses.

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