

JAMES SELLARS

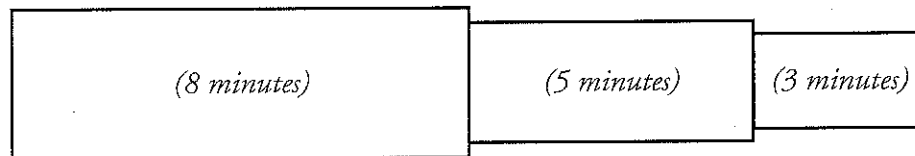
*Trio*

for Violin, Clarinet, and Violoncello

HOG RIVER MUSIC  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

## PROGRAM NOTES

Formally, my *Trio* for violin, clarinet, and cello can be represented by a telescope of three sections:



These three sections are an analogue of the three movements in the *Trio*, performed here without pause. In the first movement (the large section of the telescope), the tempo is slow, and melodic leaps are large. The second movement (middle section of the telescope) is twice as fast as the first, and the melodic intervals are smaller. The third movement is half again as fast, and the melodic intervals are yet smaller. The first movement runs some eight minutes, at a tempo of  $\text{♩}=50$ ; the second, approximately five minutes, at  $\text{♩}=100$ ; the third, around three minutes, at a tempo of 150 beats per minute.

The content within this telescopic form consists of sustained melodic lines and short, gestural comments, each instrument singing and commenting in its own idiomatic way. There is, to my mind, a certain, ongoing, dramatic confrontation between the melodic and the gestural. Indeed, the instruments and their individual capabilities directly influenced most of the musical material. This highly individualized material is but an extension of the supreme tenet of counterpoint: that each line remain distinct in the musical texture and independently audible.

Thus, one approach the listener may take to this music is to focus on a single instrumental line; yet, although the separate lines may be independently audible, each of the three instruments is interwoven into an intricate textural whole. Each is heard in the context of the other. As composition, the resulting harmonic and rhythmic complexity demands from the performers a precision in ensemble playing, which, I hope, provides for the listener a high degree of musical immediacy.

The *Trio* was commissioned by the Society for Commissioning New Music and is dedicated to John W. Petersen. The first performance took place at University of North Texas on April 26, 1975, with the following performers:

Kenneth Schanewerk, violin  
John Petersen, clarinet  
Monte Knutson, cello

*James Sellars*

## PERFORMANCE NOTES

This is a C score.

The following pizzicato signs are used:

- ♭ slapped against fingerboard (Bartók pizzicato)
- ☺ pizzicato with fingernail
- + pizzicato with left hand

Parts are available from the publisher.

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♩ = 50  
sfz  
(clar.)  
3 2/3  
3=1

*p* sempre  
rit. to accel.  
ff  
5=1  
1 3/16

Sempre *f*  
al talone  
ff

10  
*p*  
ff

15

20  
(cello)  
con sordino

25  
senza sordino  
mp  
sfz  
sfz  
*p*

30  
cresc. poco a poco  
*p*  
ff sub

*p* cresc.  
mp  
mf  
f

35  
2 (clar.)  
mf

vl. - 1 -

40

(clar.)

Musical staff with treble clef, key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 3-measure triplet. The notation includes various note values and rests.

Musical staff with treble clef, key signature of one sharp, and dynamic markings: *mp*, *mf*, *ff*, and *sfz*. It features a 5-measure triplet and a *W* (breath mark).

Musical staff with treble clef, key signature of one sharp, and dynamic markings: *rough*, *mf*, *ff*, and *ff sempre*. It includes a 2-measure triplet and a *W*.

Musical staff with treble clef, key signature of one sharp, and dynamic markings: *dim. poco a poco*. It features a 5-measure triplet and a *W*.

Musical staff with treble clef, key signature of one sharp, and dynamic markings: *f dim.*. It includes a 5-measure triplet and a *W*.

Musical staff with treble clef, key signature of one sharp, and dynamic markings: *f*, *dim molto ppp*, *poco cresc.*, and *modo ordinario*. It features a 4-measure triplet and a *W*.

Musical staff with treble clef, key signature of one sharp, and dynamic markings: *Sul ponticello*, *sfz dim.*, *p*, *mp espressivo*, and *in p*. It includes a 3-measure triplet and a *W*.

Musical staff with treble clef, key signature of one sharp, and dynamic markings: *mf*, *mp*, and *niente*. It features a *pizz.* (pizzicato) marking and a *W*.

Musical staff with treble clef, key signature of one sharp, and dynamic markings: *arco*, *pp*, *ff sub.*, and *in mf*. It includes a 3-measure triplet and a *W*.

Musical staff with treble clef, key signature of one sharp, and dynamic markings: *ppp*, *P*, *in mf*, *arco*, *ff*, *sfz*, and *P*. It features a 3-measure triplet and a *W*.

vln.-2-



Handwritten musical score for Violin 4, featuring multiple staves with complex notation, including triplets, slurs, and dynamic markings.

Key markings and annotations include:

- 105** (measure number)
- 110** (measure number)
- 115** (measure number)
- 1 = 100** (tempo marking)
- pp** (pianissimo)
- mf** (mezzo-forte)
- f** (forte)
- ff** (fortissimo)
- pizz.** (pizzicato)
- arco** (arco)
- arco spring** (arco spring)
- L.H. pizz.** (Left Hand pizzicato)
- rit.** (ritardando)
- accel.** (accelerando)
- a tempo** (a tempo)
- con molto** (con molto)
- stringendo** (stringendo)
- molto accel.** (molto accelerando)
- poco** (poco)
- molto rit.** (molto ritardando)
- lunga** (lunga)
- rushing** (rushing)
- 8va** (8va)
- 3** (triplet)
- 5** (quintuplet)
- 6=1** (sextuplet)
- 100** (tempo marking)

**Vln. - 4 -**



(clar.) 5

sfz

3

10

pizz non arpeg.

f

5

5

(pizz)

2

(clar.) 15

(pizz.)

sfz

(arco) (pizz.)

(arco) 20

sfz

f

ff

3=1

6

7

6

6

7

2

(clar.) 25

mp

(pizz.) 30

2

(clar.) 35

f

non pizz. >

arpeg.

mp

ff

sfz

7=d

7P=1

sfz

3

40

arco

(pizz.)

mf

p

sfz

Vln.-5-

arco

45

*pp*

*p sempre*

50

(Vc.)

*p*

55

*sfz*

*ppp (pizz.)*

(arco)

60

*p*

65

*ff*

*sfz*

*ff*

*p*

*ff*

*legato*

*ff*

*sfz*

70

*pp*

75

*pizz*

*mp*

80

*ppp*

85

*non arpeg.*

(pizz)

(Vc.) 3

*mf*

*sfz*

90

(pizz)

*mp*

*non arpeg.*

*mf*

*mf*

Vln.-6-





(pizz.) non arpeg. 95

non arpeg. 100

non arpeg. 105

arco ff intenso legato

110 espress. mf

115 fff

120

125 (♩=c.100) clar. cad.

clar. poco rit. con tutta forza pizz. non arpeg. ♩=150

Vln. -7-



5 *non arpeg.*

arco

10

*sfz* *poco f* *mf* *ffsub.*

*sempre f*

5=J. 5=J.

15

20

25

*mf*

30

*f-cantabile*

35

Vln.-8-

40  $\text{♩} = \text{♩}$  2

*sempre ff*

45

50

*pizz.*

*f*

arco 55

*sfz*

60

65

*pizz.*

arco 70

*pp*

75

80

*niente*

*sfz*

*ff*

Vln.-9-



85

Musical staff 1: Treble clef, key signature of one sharp (F#). Measures 85-89. Includes sfz markings and a plus sign above a note in measure 89.

pizz. 90 arco

Musical staff 2: Treble clef, key signature of one sharp (F#). Measures 90-94. Includes pizz. and arco markings, and triplet markings.

95 stacc. f sfz 7=d.

Musical staff 3: Treble clef, key signature of one sharp (F#). Measures 95-100. Includes stacc., f, sfz, and 7=d markings.

stacc. 7=d.

Musical staff 4: Treble clef, key signature of one sharp (F#). Measures 101-104. Includes stacc. and 7=d markings.

arco stacc. 5=d 5=d 5=d 101

Musical staff 5: Treble clef, key signature of one sharp (F#). Measures 105-109. Includes arco stacc., 5=d, and 101 markings.

3=d sp/D 0 3

Musical staff 6: Treble clef, key signature of one sharp (F#). Measures 110-114. Includes 3=d, sp/D, 0, and 3 markings.

105

Musical staff 7: Treble clef, key signature of one sharp (F#). Measures 115-119. Includes 105 marking.

110

Musical staff 8: Treble clef, key signature of one sharp (F#). Measures 120-124. Includes 110 marking and triplet markings.

Musical staff 9: Treble clef, key signature of one sharp (F#). Measures 125-129. Includes triplet markings.