

*A Smiling Suite* (2007)

Nicolas Bacri

*Capriccio (Allegro)*

*Air (Largo espressivo)*

*Gavotte (Andantino sveglio)*

*Menuet lent (Andantino molto cantabile)*

*Fuga diatonica (Vivace con spirito)*

“*A Smiling Suite* is a transcription of five pieces from the two first books of a cycle of three books for piano named, somewhat ironically, *Diletto classico* (classical pleasure), containing a *Suite baroque* (in five movements), a *Sonatina classica* (in three movements) and a diptych named *Arioso barocco e fuga monodica a due voci*.

These pieces are overtly neo-classical pastiches and intend to be a very serious entertainment for people that really love, on one hand, Bach, Haydn, Mozart, and on the other, Stravinsky and Prokofiev. I have done few pieces in this genre but I must recall that my *Im Volkston* and my *Symphony No. 4* (classical symphony *Sturm und Drang*), both written in 1996, are cornerstones in my catalog in that particular way of re-visiting the past with a smile. I wish to *A Smiling Suite* the same success as the two previous ones and I am particularly proud that the first performance is done with such a trio, the Verdehr Trio, which is famous for a long time now, even in Europe, for its commitment to contemporary music. Dedicated to the Verdehr Trio.”

—Nicolas Bacri

The world premiere of *A Smiling Suite* was on May 27, 2009 in the Verdehr Trio Summer Chamber Music Concert Series at the Wharton Center, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan.

Nicolas Bacri (born 1961, Paris, France) graduated from the Paris Conservatoire (with a first prize for composition), where his teachers were Claude Ballif, Marius Constant, Serge Nigg and Michel Philippot. After a two-year residency at the Académie de France in Rome, he was the Head of the Chamber Music Department of Radio-France (1987–1991) after which he began to devote himself entirely to composition. He has held residencies at the Casa de Velasquez (Spain) and with a number of French orchestras (from 1993).

Bacri, one of France’s most frequently performed and recorded composers, has written over one hundred works in many genre including seven symphonies, nine string quartets, seven cantatas, and four violin concertos. His orchestral works have been performed by numerous orchestras, among them Orchestre National de France, Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio-France, London Symphony Orchestra, Philharmonia Orchestra, WDR Sinfonie Orchester-Köln, English Chamber Orchestra, Munich Chamber Orchestra, and the European Camerata.

Bacri has received such recognition as Prix de Rome, Prix André Caplet de l'Académie des Beaux Arts, Grand Prix de la Nouvelle Académie du Disque (1993), and Grand Prix de la Musique Symphonique [S.A.C.E.M.] (2006). He was a finalist in the 2003 Masterprize International Composing Competition. Important commissions have come from the French Ministry of Culture, Radio-France, Orchestre des Jeunes de la Méditerranée, Alte Oper Frankfurt, Tapiola Sinfonietta and Pro Quartet.

Additional information is available at [www.nicolasbacri.net](http://www.nicolasbacri.net).