

“Dear Franz Schubert:

First of all, one thousand pardons for this letter but guilty I am not—it is the Verdehrs! They have hounded me to do something which I would never have done otherwise—that is, to steal from you.

To begin from the beginning: since in your lifetime you never wrote for the violin-clarinet-piano trio and since the public loves you so much, I was asked to write a trio with your pen, in a manner of speaking, in your handwriting. A really almost impossible request. I never would have been able to do it myself had not Beethoven and Mozart at times greatly assisted me, but after all, they also served you gladly and well during your lifetime whenever there was a technical problem.

Nevertheless, I hear a distant thundering in Paradise, where hopefully you have landed, of ill temper over such an upstart who has increased the number of your already not inconsiderable number of works with a falsification. But why did you not at that time write for the Verdehrs? You would have been played and beloved all over the world even sooner!

Cordially yours,  
Thomas Christian David”

The world premiere of *Schubertiade* was on June 28, 1988 in the Verdehr Trio Summer Chamber Music Concert Series at the Wharton Center, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan.

Thomas Christian David (1925–2006) was born in Wels, Austria, the son of composer Johann Nepomuk David. One of Austria’s most prolific, distinguished, and frequently-played composers, he was also well known as a conductor. For many years, he was Professor of Composition at the *Hochschule für Music* in Vienna. He divided his time between his duties in Vienna and concert tours on which he played and conducted many of his own compositions. He received composition prizes from the City of Stuttgart, Paris Radio, the City of Vienna, and the Province of Upper Austria.

David had a long association with the Verdehr Trio, which began when he was a guest professor at Michigan State University in 1977 and continued until his death in 2006. This close relationship resulted in three *Trios* (Crystal Records CD 944); a *Duo for Violin and Clarinet* (Leonarda Records LP 1122); a *Triple Concerto for Trio and Orchestra* (recorded with the the *Tonkünstler* Orchestra, Crystal Records CD 745); *Schubertiade* (in the style of Schubert, Crystal Records CD 742); *Carmen Fantasy* (written for the Midland, Michigan Symphony Orchestra and later arranged for Trio and Wind Symphony); and *Sinfonia Concertante* (commissioned by the Michigan State University Wind Symphony in the summer of 1987). Both works with wind symphony are recorded on Crystal Records CD 749.