

*Sonate für Klarinette und Violine: Duo-Sonate No. 2. (1980)*

Thomas Christian David

Inspired by the virtuosic playing of clarinetist Elsa and violinist Walter Verdehr, Thomas Christian David wrote this duo for them in 1980, exploiting the extraordinary range of technical possibilities of the two instruments.

*“Duo opens with a Preludium that is informed by two musical gestures—a quick turn followed by a held note that is heard at the very opening and a slightly slower syncopated figure over a flowing accompaniment. The body of Duo consists of a march-like theme with distinctive, sharp repeated notes, followed by six variations that imaginatively and inventively explore the many facets of the original melody. A brief Coda-Finale harks back to the theme.”*

—Thomas Christian David

The world premiere of the *Sonate für Klarinette und Violine: Duo-Sonate, No. 2.* was on October 22, 1981 at Kornhaus, Ulm, Germany. (The work was originally a one-movement *Theme and Variations* which later became the second of two movements in the renamed *Duo-Sonate.*)

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.