

*Verdehr Trio, Op. 97 (1992)*

**Gottfried von Einem**

“My work for the Verdehr Trio is music for three indicated instruments and not, as Bertold Brecht called other things, MISUC. The ‘babylonian’ confusion of compositional techniques inaugurated by Arnold Schönberg leads into the consideration of the laws governing the human voice and the composer is permitted to write music and not obliged to obey a dictatorial edict or engineer ideologies. Melodic lines and chords should be able to give composer and listener joy and stimulation, clarity of spirit—how wonderful that would be! *Verdehr Trio* was commissioned by the Verdehr Trio and Michigan State University.”

—Gottfried von Einem

The world premiere of *Verdehr Trio, Op. 97* was on September 29, 1992 in MacArthur Hall at the Flint School of Performing Arts in Flint, Michigan.

Gottfried von Einem (1918–1996) was born in Berne, Switzerland where his father was a military attaché to the Austrian Embassy. Music was such an essential part of his childhood that there was no question of his following any other career. In 1938, he became a coach at the Berlin Staatsoper and at the Bayreuth Festspielhaus, which he considers a determining part of his musical training. From 1941 until 1943 he studied with Boris Blacher.

In 1944, the success of his first state work, the ballet, *Prinzessin Turandot*, secured him the post of resident composer and musical advisor to the Dresden Staatsoper. He achieved international recognition at the 1947 Salzburg Festival with his first opera, *Dantons Tod. Der Prozess (The Trial)* was presented in Salzburg under Karl Bohm in 1953. He also established himself in the 1940s as a highly professional composer of orchestral and chamber music.

In 1953, he moved to Vienna, and together with Leonard Bernstein, was made an honorary citizen of Vienna. He joined the ranks of Beethoven, Schubert, Stravinsky, and others as an honorary member of the *Gesellschaft der Musikfreunde*, and like Gustav Mahler, became an honorary member of the *Konzerthausgesellschaft* in Vienna. He also received an honorary key to the city of Louisville, Kentucky. For several years, von Einem held a professorship at the Vienna Academy of Music and was president of AKM, the musicians’ copyright organization.

Addition information is available at [www.gottfried-von-einem.at/english/](http://www.gottfried-von-einem.at/english/).