

Haydn Triptychon:
Hommage á Haydn in E-flat Major, Hob. IV (1981)

Dieter Einfeldt

"The *Haydn Triptychon* was composed during 1979–1981 at the request of the Verdehr Trio. Since there are few effective compositions for violin, clarinet, and piano in the eighteenth-century Classical repertoire, the three Haydn *Trios*, Hoboken IV: No. 1 and 2 in E-flat major and No. 3 in B-flat major which were probably composed in 1781, were reworked for the combination of the Verdehr Trio while retaining much of the stylistic character of the original short divertimenti. Since, however, the original trios displayed some signs characteristic of sketches (each of the three trios takes only about seven minutes), the form was enlarged: the violin and clarinet parts were made more virtuoso in the sense of the late Classical period and a full-blown piano part was developed.

The *Haydn Triptychon* is, therefore, not a transcription but a new creation which only utilizes the themes of the Haydn originals and treats them very freely. Introductions, variations, longer development sections, and virtuoso codas are new compositions of this composer.

The *raison d'être* of such a classic adaptation arises from the fact that ensembles with unusual instrumental combinations which have been formed during our time cannot find much effective and idiomatic literature from all of the important musical periods. The *Haydn Triptychon* should help fill the gap in the Classical style for the repertoire of the clarinet-violin-piano combination. *Hommage á Haydn* is the second of three trios comprising the *Triptychon*."

—Dieter Einfeldt

The world premiere of *Hommage á Haydn* was on January 10, 1982 at the Flint Institute of Arts in Flint, Michigan.

Dieter Einfeldt (born 1935, Hamburg, Germany), composer, conductor, and accompanist, studied composition with E. G. Klussman and conducting with Hans Schmidt at the Musikhochschule Hamburg. His piano study was taken with Erik Schönsee at the University of Music and Theater.

Einfeldt's extensive, award-winning work includes operas, children's musicals, a ballet, an oratorio, symphonies and other orchestral works, solo pieces, and chamber music. He has received significant composition commissions, and with numerous radio productions as well as performances in Great Britain, the United States, Austria, Sweden, and the Netherlands, his work has become internationally known.

Einfeldt has been director of international orchestra courses of the Jeunesses Musicales, and from 1966 until 1971, he worked freelance for the television station NDR 3, later becoming a program consultant for the NDR radio series *The New Work*. He also worked as a freelance journalist. He has been involved in the Federal Board of the Musical Youth of Germany and in the Hamburg section of the International Society for New Music. He is a member of the Free Academy of the Arts in Hamburg and a founding member of the Association of German Composers. As a member of the Patriotic Society, he founded and supervised the concert series *New Music in Conversation*.

From 1972 until his retirement in 2000, Einfeldt held a professorship in music theory and composition at the Hamburg University of Music and Drama.