

Trio (2000)

Heinrich Gattermeyer

“This three-movement work was composed for the Verdehr Trio in 2000 and premiered in Washington, D.C. on March 4, 2001 at the Phillips Collection.

Trio is a juxtaposition of romantic gestures with the aggressive impulses of the present. Dreamlike melodies and tone sections are displaced by motoric-rhythmic accents. The syncopated opening theme, which builds the basis for a passacaglia in the first movement, becomes more and more powerful. The second movement, *Romanza*, brings a choral theme to a large dramatic highpoint only to be dispersed into sounds from the spheres. The third movement, *Rondo*, immediately breaks into the dreamlike passages carried along with strong motoric pulses. A clarinet-cantilena answered by the piano, allows a short respite and enjoyment of melody and sound. In a brilliant *stretta*, the romantic opening theme finally reappears victoriously.”

—Heinrich Gattermeyer

The world premiere of *Trio* was on March 4, 2001 in the Music Room, The Phillips Collection, Washington, D.C.

Heinrich Gattermeyer (1923–2018) was born in Sierning bei Steyre, Austria. He graduated from the Academic Gymnasium, Linz in 1941 and was then drafted into military service. After the war, he completed his education at the University of Vienna where he majored in German studies and musicology. He studied composition with Joseph Marx and Alfred Uhl, piano with Hans Weber and Bruno Seidlhofer.

In the large body of Gattermeyer’s works, there are six oratorios, five masses, the opera *Kirbisch* (premiered by Linz Opera in 1987), twenty-six solo and orchestral works, more than two hundred choral compositions, and an extensive output of chamber music. His works are available from a variety of publishers; a number of recordings are available through ORF.

Gattermeyer worked as a choirmaster with several Vienna choirs including the *Wiener Schubertbund*. In addition to his successful career as a choral director, he served as president of the Austrian Society for Contemporary Music for eleven years, president of AKM, and president of the Austrian Composers’ Union. He also created more than two hundred manuscripts for music broadcasts on Austrian radio and school television.

In recognition of his artistic and pedagogical work, Gattermeyer received numerous honors and awards: Composition Prize of the Academy of Music and Performing Arts, Austrian Cross of Honor for Science and Art, Commander’s Cross of the Holy New Year’s Eve of the Vatican, Cultural Award of the Province of Upper Austria for Music, Prize of the City of Vienna for Music, Great Decoration of Honor of the Republic of Austria, Great Tyrolean Eagle order, the Smetana Order of the CSSR, Medal of Honor of the City of Vienna, Great Silver Medal of the Republic of Austria, Award of the State of Lower Austria, Cultural Medal of the Province of Upper Austria, and the Upper Austrian Heinrich Gleissner Prize.

Gattermeyer began his teaching career in Viennese grammar schools teaching music and German. Over the years, his focus shifted to composition and conducting. From 1964 to 1993, he was Professor of Composition at the Vienna Academy of Music and Performing Arts.