

*Clarinet Trio* (2004)

Jonathan Harvey

“This work was written for, and commissioned by, the Verdehr Trio. It is inspired by the study the composer made, thirty-five years ago, of Stockhausen's famous serialization of time in *Gruppen*, where, in particular, the tempi are very precisely ordered, and they create the serial durations of each instrumental passage. The piece has therefore an apollonian 'cool' about it, against which the expressive tendencies (mostly towards a pentatonic set) rebel and push.”

—Jonathan Harvey

The world premiere of *Clarinet Trio* was on May 19, 2005 in the Verdehr Trio Summer Chamber Music Concert Series at the Wharton Center, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan.

Jonathan Harvey (1939–2012) was born in Warwickshire, England. He was a chorister at St. Michael's College, Tenbury, and later a major music scholar at St. John's College, Cambridge. He received doctorates from the universities of Glasgow and Cambridge and also studied privately (on the advice of Benjamin Britten) with Erwin Stein and Hans Keller. He was a Harkness Fellow at Princeton (1969–1970).

An invitation from Boulez to work at IRCAM in the early 1980s resulted in eight realizations at the Institute, or for the Ensemble Intercontemporain, including the tape piece *Mortuos Plango Vivos Voco*, *Ritual Melodies* for computer-manipulated sounds, and *Advaya* for cello with live and pre-recorded sounds. Harvey also composed for most other genres: orchestra (including *Madonna of Winter and Spring*, *Tranquil Abiding* and *White as Jasmine*), chamber ensembles (including three string quartets, *Soleil Noir/Chitra*, and *Death of Light, Light of Death*) and solo instruments. He produced a large number of choral works, including the cantata with electronics *Mothers Shall Not Cry* (2000). His church opera *Passion and Resurrection* (1981) was the subject of a BBC television film and received twelve subsequent performances. His opera *Inquest of Love*, commissioned by the English National Opera, was premiered there in 1993 and repeated at Theatre de la Monnaie, Brussels in 1994.

Harvey attracted commissions from many international organizations. His music has been extensively played and toured by, amongst others, Ensemble Modern, Ensemble Intercontemporain, and the Ictus Ensemble of Brussels. About fifty recordings are available on CD. He is regularly performed and featured at all the major international contemporary music festivals, and is one of the most skilled and imaginative composers of electronic music.

Harvey held honorary doctorates from the universities of Southampton, Sussex, Birmingham, Huddersfield, and Bristol. He was a Member of Academia Europaea, and in 1993 was awarded the prestigious Britten Award for composition. He was Visiting Professor of Music at Imperial College, London, an Honorary Professor at Sussex University and an Honorary Fellow of St. John's College, Cambridge. From 2005, he was Composer-in-Residence at the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra.

Harvey published two books in 1999 on inspiration and spirituality. In the same year, Arnold Whittall published a study of his music through Faber & Faber (and in French by IRCAM). Two years later, John Palmer published a substantial study: *Jonathan Harvey's Bhakti* (Edwin Mellen Press).

Additional information is available at [www.jonathanharveycomposer.com](http://www.jonathanharveycomposer.com).