

Trio No. 5 (1998)

Michael Hersch

“The combination of piano, violin, and clarinet has always been one that I feel close to. This work was written after a series of personal losses, which had a great effect on me. The aforementioned combination’s dark hues lent themselves well to the music I felt I needed to write. Hopefully, the music will communicate the states of mind I struggled with throughout the composition of the piece.”

—Michael Hersch

The world premiere of *Trio No. 5* was June 17, 1998 in the Verdehr Trio Summer Chamber Music Concert Series at the Wharton Center, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan.

Michael Hersch (born 1971, Washington, D.C.) received his undergraduate degree at the Peabody Conservatory and completed his master’s degree in composition at the same institution studying with Morris Cotel. At the Moscow Conservatory in Russia, he worked with Roman Ledenev and Albert Leman and was awarded a Certificate in Composition. He continued study in the United States with John Corigliano, George Rochberg, and, as a fellow at the Tanglewood Music Center, with Christopher Rouse.

At the age of twenty-five, Hersch became one of the youngest composers ever to receive a Guggenheim Fellowship in music. Declared by many to be among the most gifted composers of his generation, his list of awards grew rapidly and includes: the American Composers Award, Goddard Lieberman Fellowship and Charles Ives Scholarship from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, New York Youth Symphony’s First Music prize, two ASCAP Foundation Grants, Rome Prize, Berlin Prize, and the President’s Frontier Award from Johns Hopkins University.

The early recognition Hersch received as a composer led to numerous commissions and performances. Notable commissions have come from the Cleveland Orchestra, New York Philharmonic, Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, ASCAP Kingsford Commissions for Art Song, Cabrillo Contemporary Music Festival Orchestra, Network for New Music, Ellen Taaffe Zwilich Young Composers Workshop at Carnegie Hall, and the Geraldine C. and Emory M. Ford Foundation. Prominent performances include those given by the New York Philharmonic, New York Chamber Symphony, Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, and the symphonies of Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Dallas, Atlanta, St. Louis, Baltimore, Vancouver, Colorado, and Seattle. Hersch’s works have also received numerous performances in England, Switzerland, Finland, Austria, Germany, Italy, and Japan.

Hersch serves as chair of the composition faculty at the Peabody Institute of Johns Hopkins University. He is an active and acclaimed pianist who maintains a rigorous schedule of performances worldwide.

Additional information is available at www.michaelhersch.com.