

Sonata a Tre (1982)

Karel Husa

"Sonata a Tre was composed in Ithaca, New York during late 1981 and early 1982. Written in three movements, the work features each performer in one movement. The violin opens in a solo prelude followed by a toccata-like conclusion. The second movement features the piano in a slow fantasia leading into elegiac music. The third movement begins with a clarinet cadenza and later the violin and piano join in a fast finale.

The title 'sonata' refers not to the classical meaning of the sonata, but rather to the earlier Baroque meaning of the word. The music, however, is part of today's world as new possibilities of techniques (individual and collective) have been used and new sounds explored. *Sonata a Tre* is written in a virtuosic manner and, hopefully, for the excitement of solo and chamber music making. It is dedicated to the Verdehr Trio."

—Karel Husa

The world premiere of *Sonata a Tre* was on March 23, 1982 in Hong Kong City Hall, Hong Kong, China.

Karel Husa (born 1921, Prague, Czechoslovakia) was a student at the Prague Conservatory and Academy of Music. He later lived in Paris while studying with Honegger and Boulanger. For many years the Professor of Composition at Cornell University, he is one of the most often performed and well-known composers in the United States and his dual career as composer and conductor carries him throughout the United States and Europe.

Husa is the recipient of numerous prizes and honors. He has received honorary degrees of Doctor of Music from Coe College, the Cleveland Institute of Music, Ithaca College, and Baldwin Wallace College. He has had a fellowship from the Guggenheim Foundation and commissions from the Koussevitzky Foundation. Awards include those from the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters, UNESCO, the Lili Boulanger International Music Competition, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Czech Academy for the Arts and Sciences. He received the Czech Medal of Merit, First Class and was elected Associate Member of the Royal Belgian Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1974. His *String Quartet No. 3* received the 1969 Pulitzer Prize, and his *Cello Concerto* the 1993 Grawemeyer Award.

Husa has conducted many major orchestras including those in Paris, London, Prague, Zurich, Hong Kong, Singapore, New York, Boston, and Washington. He has conducted in all fifty American states and regularly visits university campuses to guest conduct and lecture on his music.

His music is published by Associated Music Publishers and recordings have been issued on CBS Masterworks, Vox, Everest, Louisville, CRI, Orion, Grenadilla, and Phoenix Records.