

V2R (*Grand River Trio*) (2003)

Krzysztof Knittel

"I composed this piece to a commission from the Verdehr Trio and Michigan State University. It is in three sections and lasts about nineteen minutes. It mainly uses the musical material dating from 2002, but I have also employed some of my ideas and musical phrases from the late 1970s which I jotted down after my prolonged stay in the United States. The piece is dedicated to Elsa Ludewig-Verdehr, Walter Verdehr, and Silvia Roederer.

P.S.: If I tried to describe the piece, I would probably do it with the following remarks: the aesthetic of the past, atonal structures clash with a thicket of consonances played *ad libitum*, based on simple scales and quasi-tonal centers. The construction gradually develops (or is rather reduced) from masses of sound which stem from wandering through the timbres of various scales and registers, thickened and thinned out 'clouds' in the first section, through the virtuoso solo fragments of the middle section, to a combination of several thickly built and contrasted sound spaces which round off the piece. Well, an attempt to capture the musical construction in words always encounters barriers which stem from the use of notions and signs from two entirely different areas of reality: a verbal description and an asemantic sound construction. This inability to find one's bearing in describing music can unfortunately be likened to persistent Kafkaesque attempts to force the door open, when there is no key to it..."

—Krzysztof Knittel

The world premiere of *V2R* was on September 26, 2003 in the Concert Hall, Frederic Chopin Academy of Music, Warsaw, Poland.

Krzysztof Knittel (born 1947, Warsaw, Poland) studied sound engineering and composition at the Music Academy in Warsaw. Since 1973, he has collaborated with the Polish Radio Experimental Studio. He has taken part in the Summer Courses of New Music in Darmstadt, and in 1978 he worked for the Center of the Creative and Performing Arts in Buffalo. He is the co-founder of many creative groups: the KEW Composers' Group, Cytula Tyfun da Bamba Orkiester, the Independent Electroacoustic Music Studio, Light from Poland, Freight Train, the European Improvisation Orchestra, and the CH&K Group.

Apart from works for acoustic instruments, Knittel has also written computer and electro-acoustic music, created performances, built sound installations, and played in improvised music ensembles. He has performed his music in numerous concerts and festivals of new music in most of the European countries, Asia, and North and South America, including concerts devoted exclusively to his music. He has lectured on new music, and as journalist and critic, he contributed to the *Typodnik Literacki* periodical and freelanced for Polish television. His honors include the Solidarity Prize for the String Quartet written in tribute of Father Jerzy Popieluszkoi. He also received the Award of the Foundation for Contemporary Performing Arts in New York and the Award of the Polish Composers Union.

Knittel served as Vice-chairman of the Polish Section of ISCM and was director of the Warsaw Autumn International Contemporary Music Festival. He was president of the Polish Composers' Union from 1999-2003 and has lectured at the Music Academy in Lodz since 2001.

Additional information is available at www.krzysztofknittel.com.