

Trio, Op. 108

Ernst Krenek

Trio, Op. 108 was written for string trio in 1946 and later arranged for violin, clarinet, and piano. It is a short work, eight minutes in length, with two movements: *Allegretto moderato, comodo* and *Allegro agitato*.

Ernst Krenek (1900–1991) was born in Vienna, Austria. His life spanned the musical life of much of the twentieth century, thus his musical output encompasses a variety of styles and reflects many of the principal musical influences of the twentieth century. He was a young man during the time in Vienna when Schoenberg and his pupils were prominent. He knew Oskar Kokoschka with whom he later collaborated on the opera *Orpheus and Eurydice*. While visiting in Paris in the 1920s, he became familiar with the works of Stravinsky and *Les Six*. He met many other important figures in the arts at concerts, in cafes, and through the cultural associations of his wife, Anna Mahler, the daughter of Gustav and Alma Mahler.

In 1927, Krenek's opera *Jonny spielt auf* (Jonny strikes up the band) premiered in Leipzig, Germany, and international recognition ensued. However, in 1933, his opera, *Karl V*, his first significant work to use the twelve-tone system, was blacklisted in Germany, and upon expulsion from Austria after the *Anschluss* in 1938, Krenek moved to the United States. He became an American citizen in 1945. The first thirty-seven years of his life are chronicled in his early autobiography of nearly a thousand pages, *Im Atem der Zeit*.

In the United States, Krenek taught music at Vassar College and Hamline University in Saint Paul, Minnesota. He later moved to Toronto, Ontario, Canada, where he taught at The Royal Conservatory of Music. From 1966 until his death, he lived in Palm Springs, California. In 1998, the Ernst Krenek Institute was founded in Vienna, moving to Krems, Austria in 2004.