

*Trio Giocososo* (1997)

Ivan Kurz

“An expression of positive energy, a feeling and joy and playfulness, warm hearts uncovering a new beauty, tender and poetic. This is the *raison d’être* sought by my new composition. *Trio Giocososo* was written in the summer of 1997, and the external impetus for its creation was the request of the renowned American violinist and eminent chamber musician, Walter Verdehr, to whom it is dedicated.”

—Ivan Kurz

The world premiere of *Trio Giocososo* was on October 17, 1999 in the Music Room, The Phillips Collection, Washington, D.C.

Ivan Kurz (born 1947, Prague, Czech Republic) ranks among the most important Czech composers of his generation. He studied music theory privately with Karel Risinger, after which he studied composition with Emil Hlobil and completed his postgraduate education with Vaclav Dobias at the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague.

Clear within the sound of Kurz’s music is his creative approach, expressed through the synthesis of diverse compositional devices. He is a versatile and prolific composer whose output includes numerous works for chamber ensemble, voice, and electro-acoustic combinations. The focus of his work, however, lies in his music for symphony orchestra. He is also known as an eminent composer of music for theatre, television, and film. His music for the television series *Curios of the City of Prague* and *Gendarme Humoresques* were highly acclaimed and have become very popular with the general public.

In 1974, Kurz was awarded first prize in the composition competition *Generace* in Ostrava, and a year later he received the prize of the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic. In 1980, and again in 1989, he was awarded the Prize of the Union of Czech Composers and Concert Artists; in 1990 he received the Prize of the Czech Music Fund.

From 1971 to 1975, Kurz served as a dramaturgist and editor for Czech television. In 1977, he joined the faculty at the Academy of Performing Arts where he taught composition and orchestration. He later served the Academy as Vice Dean and then Dean of the Music Department.