

Rhapsody for Three (1998)

Gary Powell Nash

“Rhapsody for Three for clarinet, violin and piano is a ten-minute composition with two major sections. The work begins with clarinet, violin and piano cadenzas, each supported by one of the three major harmonies of the composition. The main melodic material stems from these cadenzas. The first major section is moderately slow, quarter note = 60, and consists of a quintuple meter melody which is written with alternating measures of 2/4 and 3/4. The second section, which is slightly faster, quarter note = 88, is approached by a metric modulation and settles into a consistent quadruple meter.”

—Gary Powell Nash

The world premiere of *Rhapsody for Three* was on October 13, 1998 at Delta State University, Cleveland, Mississippi.

Gary Powell Nash (born 1964, Flint, Michigan) holds the Bachelor of Music in Music Education degree from Michigan State University, the Master of Music degree in Composition from Western Michigan University, and PhD in Music Composition from Michigan State University. His teachers include Ramon Zupko, Mark Sullivan, Charles Ruggiero, Jere Hutcheson, Bernard Rands, Jacob Druckman, and George Tsontakis.

Nash’s composition portfolio consists of five orchestral works, including an alto saxophone concerto, three symphonic band compositions, two choral pieces, four art songs (one in Chinese), two electroacoustic works, and several instrumental chamber compositions. His music has been performed in all major regions of the United States and in Taipei, Taiwan. Nash’s orchestra works have been performed by the Atlanta, Baltimore, Chicago Civic, Cincinnati, Detroit, and Flint Symphony Orchestras.

Nash’s numerous grants, commissions, and awards include a 1994 ASCAP Foundation Grant to Young Composers Award, a 1995 Minority Outreach Fellowship to the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts Artists’ Colony, and a 1998 commission for the Ellen Taaffe Zwilich Composers Workshop in Carnegie Hall where his composition *Brass Magnolia Suite* for trumpet, horn, bass trombone, and percussion was premiered in April, 1999. In 2000, he received a Fulbright scholarship for the University of the Philippines Diliman in Quezon City. The Tennessee Music Teachers Association named him “Composer of the Year” in 2005–2006, and in 2007, he received a grant from the UNCF/Mellon Foundation for a seminar in Ghana.

Eleven of Nash’s compositions are featured on compact discs including *In Memoriam: Sojourner Truth* for orchestra on the CD *Symphonic Brotherhood; The Music of African-American Composers* on Albany Records (with Julius P. Williams conducting the Bohuslav Martinu Philharmonic of Zlin, Czech Republic), and *Blues Impromptu* for solo cello on the CD *Music from Mount San Angelo* featuring Tanya Anisimova, cello.

Nash taught at Mississippi Valley State University in Itta Bena, Mississippi and is currently Professor of Music at Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee where he conducts the Fisk Jazz Ensemble and teaches courses in music theory, technology, composition, and applied woodwinds.

Additional information is available at <http://garynash.musicaneo.com>.