

Trio No. 2 (1999)

Ron Newman

"*Trio No. 2*, for clarinet, violin, and piano, was composed in 1999 for the Verdehr Trio. There are three movements: *Prelude*, *Saudade* (Nostalgia), and *Allegro agitato*, and each of them draws upon, in varying degrees, classical, jazz, pop, and Latin music. A number of years ago I began to include ideas more closely associated with jazz and popular music forms in my 'classical' compositions. These ideas have melded in such a way that they can no longer be separated in the compositional process. I do not consider this an 'eclectic' approach to composition since I do not hear these as separate forms and styles, but simply as material which is useful in presenting a unified piece of music."

—Ron Newman

The world premiere of *Trio No. 2* was on July 6, 1999 in the Verdehr Trio Summer Chamber Music Concert Series at the Wharton Center, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan.

Ron Newman (born 1952, Howell, Michigan) is Professor of Music Theory at Michigan State University. From 1980 until 1995 he served as Director of the award-winning MSU Jazz Bands, and he is a past president of the Michigan Chapter of the National Association of Jazz Educators. He received an undergraduate degree in Music Education from North Texas State University, and the Master's and PhD degrees in Music Composition from Michigan State University.

Active in both jazz and classical fields as a performer and composer, he has received composition commissions from a variety of sources, including the National Endowment for the Humanities, the National Endowment for the Arts Commissioning Consortium, and the New York Concert Artist's Guild. He also received a Meet the Composer grant through Arts Midwest.

His jazz arrangements have been played by such artists as Marvin Stamm, Steve Houghton, and Ernie Watts. He performs extensively with his wife, jazz vocalist, Sunny Wilkinson. Their CD *High Wire* features several of Newman's arrangements for the piano/vocal duo. Other recordings of include *Two States of Being*, written for and recorded by classical trumpeter John Harbaugh on the CD *New Trumpet Vistas*, and *You and I* featuring tubist Marty Erickson and trombonist Wycliffe Gordon on the CD *You and I*.

Newman's compositions also include *A Nucleus Factory* (a film score), *Escape Clause* and *Brando After Dark* for jazz band, *Billie and Ming Do the Be-bop Thing* for children's choir and jazz trio, *Five Pieces for Piano*, and *Three Pieces for Tuba*.